

AN PHOBLACHT Republican News

IRELAND'S BIGGEST SELLING
POLITICAL WEEKLY



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Sinn Fein on the air

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THE HYPOCRITICAL HOWLS of loyalist politicians which have followed the sectarian killings at Darkley in County Armagh are matched in insincerity only by the hand-wringing guilt-mongering of Irish establishment prelates and politicians.

The former want to use the tragic, indefensible, deaths as an excuse for extensive nationalist or Catholic blood-letting, whilst the latter want the whole nationalist population to take on the guilt of the act and capitulate to the British occupier to show true sorrow.

But the nationalist people of the North know better than anyone what it is to lose innocent relatives through sectarian assassination and understand better than anyone the grief of those bereaved at Darkley.

Because the truth of the matter is that sectarian murder has been the weapon of the loyalists seeking to maintain supremacy in the North, not the weapon of those who justifiably fight to free their people from foreign oppression.

NO PART

The republican struggle has no part for the indiscriminate sectarian attack such as took place at Darkley, and republicans have not hesitated to say so. But that does not mean that republicans have to forget the constant sectarian war which has been carried out at various levels of intensity by loyalists in and out of uniform over the last 14 years; or the pogroms against the nationalist population which have taken place intermittently since the foundation of the Northern statelet; or indeed the centuries of sectarian hatred deliberately engineered by the Orange Order, set up for that very purpose by those in whose interests it is to create and maintain divisions.

It was apt that on Wednesday this week, a bereaved nationalist mother should, in the *Irish News*, criticise both James Prior and Cardinal O Fiach over their flippant claims about Darkley being the first attack on a place of worship.

Mrs Gretta Ballantine reminded them that her 18-year-old son, Kev-



● The bullet-riddled hallway of the Darkley Pentecostal Church

in, was shot dead by loyalist gunmen in the porch of St Brigid's Church in Belfast along with a friend, Gerard Kiatly from Dublin, as they left evening Mass in February 1975 — a year when loyalist sectarian attacks took place almost daily during an IRA truce.

The people of St Matthew's parish in the Short Strand are not likely to conveniently wipe from their minds the fact that their church has

been a constant target of loyalist attack over decades — and a memorial marks the spot where a parishioner died in the '20s when loyalists attacked Mass-goers.

Nor are the people of Ballymurphy likely to forget their local priest, Fr. Mullen, who was shot dead by British paratroopers as he gave the last rites to another of their victims on internment day in August 1971.

And there was little or no outcry then from those who howl or hint now:

"Croppie lie down!"

The nationalist people decry the Darkley killings and understand the grief of the bereaved because they

know only too well what the evil of sectarianism is like. They are not foolish enough, however, to do as Prior, O Fiach and the rest of them would like and accept the blame for it or pretend that history has not happened.

The blame for Darkley, as for all the other deaths in the North, ultimately rests with the British who created, armed and maintained the sectarian state in the North — a state which could not exist without officially sponsored sectarianism.

And the only answer remains for the British to get out, not for the nationalist people to capitulate to that sectarian monster either through fear or ill-placed guilt.



Court told of Monaghan assault

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EXTRADITION DENOUNCED

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OPINION

GAELTACHT IN DANGER

The present controversy surrounding Udaras na Gaeltachta spells grave danger for the future of the people of the Gaeltacht and the protection of what remains of a living Irish language.

It is obvious that there has been something wrong in An tUdaras for at least the last two years. It is equally obvious that the whole idea of Udaras na Gaeltachta has few, if any, supporters in the Coalition government in Dublin. And, we may add, the seeds of the present problems were sown by the then Fianna Fáil government which refused to make An tUdaras a fully democratic body when they put through the legislation which established it in 1979.

An tUdaras was then established only after many years of determined campaigning by the people of the Gaeltacht and by Irish language organisations. The reluctant politicians who eventually responded to that lobbying typically set up a body which was far short of what was demanded but just enough to defuse the militancy which would have been required to win the full battle — standard establishment political tactics, in other words.

The arbitrary removal of An tUdaras board members by the Coalition minister last week and their replacement by civil servants was empowered by the legislation of a Fianna Fáil minister before him and made the supposed democratic elections to the board a total farce.

The likelihood now seems to be the abolition of An tUdaras altogether and its replacement with a so-called Western Development Board, which would merely be the IDA-type pathfinder for transient multinationals and with no regard at all for the pressing social and cultural needs of the Gaeltacht.

The only way to preserve the Gaeltacht and provide not only economic well-being but social and cultural development — which the Gaeltacht urgently requires — is to establish a fully democratic Udaras with all the powers and resources needed to adequately protect the Gaeltacht as a Gaeltacht in the interests not of the Dublin political parties but of the Gaeltacht people.

Under present-day conditions, that may seem an impossible dream, but the defence of the Gaeltacht is an important part of any struggle for an independent Irish republic and whatever can be done to defend it now must be done. Whatever gains can be made now must be made.

If we wait for the future before we act then the Gaeltacht, by then, could be just a thing of the past.

THE PAST WEEK

WE DON'T have to look hard in any week to find reasons for the general frustration and apathy which afflicts all of us at some time, and, unfortunately, some of us all the time.

Take the past week, for example.

In the South there has been the threatened closure of yet another factory, promising to devastate its local area. This time the chipboard factory in Scariff, East Clare, and 350 vital jobs.

There has also been the revelation of a plethora of pollution. Antibiotics in milk and meat, contamination in food, and chemicals in the water supply, were all reported at alarming levels but without any particular official concern. The major dangers to health are apparently outweighed by considerations of profit.

Meanwhile, in Brussels, the EEC Commission insists that, whether they like or not — and they quite rightly do not — Irish farmers are going to pay the proposed milk super-levy or be crushed by the consequences of a refusal.

In the North, the nationalist people, behind the dramatic headlines, suffer the constant direct results of British rule, harassment, brutality and murder bids, go largely unnoticed.

And the Northern working-class people as a whole are informed that housing costs — in many cases for sub-standard housing — will rise, that they have lost control of their rent money and that the inadequate health services are being further cut back.

We could go on, perhaps, and mention the arrival of Cruise and Pershing missiles in Europe and the prospect of all the minor problems being solved by one megaton one.

The frustrating thing about all of this — and we have only considered a few of this week's events — is the utter powerlessness of the people most affected to do anything to change it and the utter unwillingness of those in power to do anything either.

And, just to put things in perspective, no one believes that a by-election result in Dublin is going to alter things either.

But republicans believe that things can be changed and are enthusiastically out to change them. A basic part of that progress is getting the message across to the people of just how little their requirements can be met by the present establishment politicians and the present political system and just how little control ordinary men and women have over the things which concern them most.

The key to political progress is to channel the anger of that realisation away from frustration and into the clear-sighted radical programmes which Sinn Féin can offer.

But how many opportunities to do so were missed in the past week?



MOUNTJOY SENTENCE FOR TV PROTEST

CAIT UI CHADHAIN, a Dublin widow with nine children, has consistently refused to buy a TV licence in protest at the lack of Irish on RTE.

Last Monday, November 21st, she was arrested and taken to Mountjoy Jail to serve four days' imprisonment for her failure to pay a £10 fine imposed last April 28th.

This is the third time that Cait Ui Chadhain has been prosecuted for her refusal to buy a licence. She got probation on the first two occasions and this time she took her case right up to the Supreme Court. Her appeal was rejected on July 19th 1982 and the £10 fine was imposed the following April.

A picket was placed on Mountjoy Jail on Monday by Conradh na Gaeilge in support of Cait Ui Chadhain, and in a statement Conradh have condemned her imprisonment and demanded her immediate release.

They also picketed the Department of Justice at lunchtime on Tuesday and Mountjoy again that evening.

Cás don ceathrú coláiste

LE CIAN Mac AOIDH

THÁINIG corradh le 250 duine i gcionn a chéile Dé Céadaoin, 17 Samhain le feachtas a bhunú ar son Coláiste Breis-Oideachais in Iarthar Bhéal Feirste.

Ag an chruinniú i sean mhúleann Conway, Bothar na bhFáil, chuisthas óráid ó na hAoi-chainteoirí, Pauline Murphy (Ceannasaí Scoil Pobail Naomh Louise), an Seanadóir John Robb, Tom Lovett (ó Choláiste Phobail Uladh) agus an tAthair Des Wilson (Oideachasóir Oile).

Thaigh an ceathrú leis an tuairim gur cóir go mbunúfar an ceathrú coláiste breis-oideachais, atá le hoscailt i mBéal Feirste amach anseo, i mBéal Feirste Thiar — an ceantar náisiúnach is mó sa chathair agus an áit is mó dífhostaíochta san Éiróp.

IONSÁI

Thosaigh díospóireacht bhríomhar sa halla ansin, a mhair uair go leith, agus rinneadh cás láidir ar son coláiste pobail ag daoine óga díomhaoin agus ag mná a dúirt gur chaill siad áisínna oideachais agus iad ag tógáil páistí. Chomh maith rinneadh ionsaí fíochmhar ar an chóras scoile de thairbh nach raibh sé ag riaradh do rianachais an phobail.

Cuirtear dlús mór leis an chruinniú nuair a tógáidh go raibh míle sinúil bail.

ithe cheana féin d'achainí a chuir an cheist: An mbeithís aásta freastal ar chúrsaí ag Coláiste breis-oideachais/pobail in Iarthar Bhéal Feirste.

COISTE

Ag díreadh an chruinnithe toghadh 15 duine ar choiste leis an fheachtas ar son Coláiste Tríú Leibhéal a stiúradh agus le cáinteanna a thioseacht leis na húdaráis Oideachais.

Arís Rúnaf an Choiste, An tUas. Paddy Davidson:

"Beimid ag larraidh fíorúcháin a bhnu leis an gha a le haiteanna Oideachais sa toadh seo cathrach a léiriú agus, chugé sin fosta, déanfaimid suirbhé le fáil amach caide an cineál oideachais atá de dhíth ar na daoine."

Tá tugtha le fíor cheana féin ag an Bhórd Oideachais i mBéal Feirste go mbeadh siad in éadan coláiste úr a bhunú in Iarthar Bhéal Feirste ar an bhparc mbeadh leis ar Phroastáinigh freastail air. Ach, de réir an choiste úir, tá an coláiste tríú leibhéal Rupert Stanley i gcrí.



● Pauline Murphy ceannasaí Scoil Pobail Naomh Louise

Iár cheantair phroastáinigh in Oirthear Bhéal Feirste agus níor dúradh ariamh go raibh suíomh na Coláiste sin in éadan polasaf an Bhórd Oideachais.

Sinn Fein profile raised

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

IN THE last week of campaigning in the Dublin Central by-election, Sinn Fein's energetic and enthusiastic teams of canvassers used every available minute to put the policies of Sinn Fein before the electorate.

The Sinn Fein candidate, Christy Burke, was the only candidate able to cast his vote in Wednesday's poll - all the other nine candidates have addresses outside the constituency.

Burke, already well-known in his local area, has canvassed widely in the constituency. He was accompanied last Saturday by the five Northern Sinn Fein elected representatives, Gerry Adams, Danny Morrison, Owen Carron, Martin McGuinness and Jim McAllister on a canvass of Henrietta House, O'Devaney Gardens and Moore Street.

Contrary to the silly propaganda against Sinn Fein that was the sole content of an article in Monday's *Irish Independent* newspaper, Gerry Adams and the other Sinn Fein members were very well-received in all the areas, being greeted by residents by name and getting unprompted promises of support for the Sinn Fein candidate.

In Moore Street it was obvious that the street-traders held Christy Burke in the highest esteem because of his work on their behalf, both in their local areas and in his fight to stop their harassment by the gardai.

On Tuesday, Alex Maskey, Sinn Fein's Belfast city councillor, and Christy Burke canvassed Dorset Street Flats and paid a return visit to Henrietta House. Alex also accompanied Christy on a tour of the polling booths on Wednesday after the candidate had cast his vote at Saint Columba's School in North Strand.

BROADCASTING

Radio SF has been on the air, as a direct response to the Section 31 ban, on 298 metres medium wave, since Saturday, broadcasting news, interviews, music and up-to-date coverage of the election campaign.

Sinn Fein's best response has been in the inner-city flats complexes, and in Cabra, where Christy Burke polled particularly well in the 1982 elections.

Canvassing was backed up by an efficient and effective poster campaign, with Christy Burke posters on practically every telegraph pole and lamp-post and banners calling on people to vote Sinn Fein placed at strategic points around the city.

On the eve of Wednesday's polling day, a Sinn Fein cavalcade of 20 cars, a truck and a minibus toured Summerhill, East Wall,



● Christy Burke, flanked by Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, enjoys the crack with street-traders during canvassing in Dublin's Moore Street

Ballybough, Cabra and Sheriff Street, where they got a warm welcome.

Dublin Sinn Fein are confident of improving on their vote of February 1982 and have used the election to raise Sinn Fein's profile in the area. New members will be recruited from the many workers who offered their services during the election, and the part-time advice centre in Cabra will become a full-time centre in the near future, with plans for more Sinn Fein centres in the area underway.

The counting of votes in the by-election begins as AP/RN goes to press on Thursday morning this week. There will be full analysis and comment on the results in next week's paper.



● Radio SF, Sinn Fein's own pirate radio station, proved a popular and effective way to beat the Section 31 censorship of the Free State Broadcasting Act during the by-election campaign

By-election appeal fund

SINN FEIN are appealing for financial support to off-set the costs of the Dublin Central by-election.

Donations should be sent to:-
Dublin Sinn Fein,
5 Blessington Street,
Dublin 7;

or
Sinn Fein Dublin Central
By-election Fund,
A/C No. 56335758,
Bank of Ireland,
Dorset Street,
Dublin 7.

Isolation torture in English jails

PAUL NORNEY, from the St James's area of West Belfast, who was in Albany Prison during the disturbances there earlier this year and was charged under the draconian 'mutiny' clause, had spent a staggering 162 days in solitary confinement up to November 4th - 106 days longer than the period imposed on him by a Board of Visitors kangaroo court for his alleged part in those disturbances.

Rule 43 of the prison regime's 'Good Order and Discipline' regulations allows the prison administration to hold prisoners for indefinite periods without explanation. Paul Norney, like many other republican POWs, has had no indication when this total isolation will end. Rule 43 also imposes closed visits on its victims and, rather than have his family travel the whole way from Belfast for a half-hour of this degrading experience, Paul has been refusing all visits as a protest.

The 'ghosting' system, whereby POWs are moved without warning, is still very much in use.

Billy Armstrong, from Moyard in West Belfast, was recently taken from Albany Prison to nearby Parkhurst with such haste that he was not even allowed to put on his shoes. In Parkhurst he was put in isolation and attempts were made to force him to wear 'patches' (a prison uniform made up of patches of uniform material).

He immediately went on hunger-strike and the next day he was



● PAUL NORNEY moved to Winchester Prison in what he describes as a 'Starky and Hutch' type operation and he was put in solitary confinement. He now believes that he will shortly be moved again to either Gartree or Hull.

Court told of Monaghan assault

IN A CASE which opened in the Dublin High Court on Tuesday, a Monaghan man, John Milne, is claiming damages from two gardai, Eamonn Flynn and John McCoy, for injuries he received when he was assaulted by gardai following an H-Block demonstration in Monaghan on May 6th 1978.

The court was told that after a peaceful demonstration, when the marchers were beginning to disperse, two garda cars arrived and the occupants arrested Tom Bannon, John Milne and his wife.

Seamus Egan SC told how Milne was bundled into the back of a car, where a garda sat on his neck, and how he was beaten, punched and kicked in the day-room of the barracks for at least 15 minutes.

In evidence, Milne said he was then dragged to a cell and was unable to move or speak because of the beatings and shock.

Dr Michael Maloney, county surgeon, gave evidence of seeing bruises on Milne's chest and shoulder on May 8th 1978, two days after the incident.

The trial continued on Wednesday, November 23rd, when Tom Bannon told



● John Milne and his wife, leaving the High Court on Wednesday

the court that he saw both Flynn and McEvoy kicking and stamping on Milne in the barracks in Monaghan, and later heard Detective Sergeant Tom Gavin remark:

"That's an end to that foolishness." The trial is continuing in the High Court.

Trade union visit

A DELEGATION of British trade unionists from Yorkshire visited Belfast and Derry last weekend, November 19th to 21st.

Members of many unions, including NATFHE (teachers), AUEW (engineering workers), NUM (miners), UCATT (building workers), NUJ (journalists), ACTSS (film technicians) and ASTMS (white-collar workers), were on the trip.

The visit started with a reception at the Sinn Féin centre in Derry, followed by a short tour of the city. The delegation then met members of Derry Sinn Féin's Trade Union Department, where discussion centred on how trade unionists could effectively raise the issue of the six counties within their unions.

There was unanimous agreement that the loyalist-dominated Northern Ireland Committee of the Irish Congress of Trade Unions had to be challenged, and that this could only be done when trade union members in Britain were armed with the facts.

On Saturday night the delegation was addressed by Sinn Féin elected representative Martin McGuinness, who outlined the political development of Sinn Féin and on Sunday, accompanied by Mitchell McLaughlin, secretary of Derry Sinn Féin, and Martin McGuinness, they visited the new bridge where workers are engaged in industrial action.

A showing of the video film *The Longest War* was followed by a discussion with 40 young republicans and on Monday the delegation returned to Yorkshire with first-hand information about the reality of life in the six counties.



Relatives for Longford

RELATIVES of victims of plastic bullets in the North have been invited to address a meeting of Longford County Council.

The resolution to invite the relatives was proposed by Sinn Féin councillor Sean Lynch and accepted at the council meeting on Monday, November 21st.



SEAN LYNCH

TARGETING THE HEALTH SERVICE

BY JANE PLUNKETT

ONGOING and planned cut-backs in the North's hospital and community health and social services being imposed by Britain's colonial administration have been strongly condemned in a statement by the Sinn Féin MP for West Belfast, Gerry Adams.

Adams points out:

"The basis of a health service is to provide for the needs of the population, especially those members of that population in most need, the elderly, the very young and the handicapped. Tory policy to date has been to cut back in the services provided for these very groups."

Despite growing social and economic deprivation in areas such as North and West Belfast — with an inevitable real increase in the need for health services — the DHSS, led by direct-rule minister Christopher Patten, are pushing for cut-backs in hospital staff, and community care such as playgroups, facilities for the handicapped and the home-help service.

In a DHSS five-year 'regional strategic plan' for the North's health and personal social services published last July, Patten reiterated the Tory stress on 'cost-effectiveness', admitting that whether or not spending will be even marginally increased "will depend on the country's economic performance and competing demands on the public purse".

The DHSS report in any case envisages at the most only a minimal 0.5% increase in funding per year, though it is already attempting to obtain a similar sum by means of new cut-backs, which are already being contested by several unions.

INSTRUCTIONS

The Eastern Health and Social Services Board, under DHSS instructions, has in recent months attempted to push through massive cuts in spending on the district's home-help service which, because originally underfunded, had exceeded its budget considerably. The Andersonstown sub-office, in an area of considerable need, was instructed to cut its home-help budget by a quarter. Despite continuing resistance from the unions involved, with a review of clients' needs, those who receive assistance from the office are on average already losing four hours a week in home-help time, according to sources.

Adams commented:

"These cut-backs have resulted in a reduced service to the elderly people of West Belfast — a situation that is cynically referred to in the report as 'better targeting of priorities'."

The Eastern Health Board, which reportedly is seeking cuts of £18,000 in services for the handicapped, two weeks ago scrapped a bus service which takes handicapped people away for weekends. This cut-back has since been halted following joint protests by parents and the union involved, NUPE.

Services for West Belfast's very young are also threatened. The Board is currently attempting to interest voluntary groups in taking over three pre-school playgroups currently run by the Social Services Department in the Glassmull, Whitecourt and Glen Road areas.

HOSPITAL

In West Belfast's Royal Victoria Hospital,



Planned cut-backs in the North's hospital and community-care services have been attacked by Gerry Adams

ongoing hidden cuts, including the freezing of posts and delays in replacing employees who leave, have already led to reductions in staff at many levels. Additional cuts, as the unions point out, will inevitably further affect services to the sick, boosting waiting lists for operations in particular. They will also further increase the catastrophic unemployment levels in West Belfast, where the Royal is a major employer.

The numbers of nursing staff, for example, have been considerably reduced in recent years. One geriatric ward is already four nurses short, leaving inadequate back-up if nurses fall sick, even though geriatric patients need considerable care and attention.

Some gynaecology beds could close this year because of reduced staffing levels. And failure to replace clerical staff has slowed communication between the hospital and GPs in some departments.

Such cut-backs, Gerry Adams points out, mean that "of 60 nurses qualifying in the Royal, only two can be expected to get jobs", with nurses increasingly being used as cheap labour during their training period, only to find themselves unemployed once they gain staff-nurse status.

In line with Thatcherite private-enterprise ideology, the first steps are being taken towards the privatisation of hospital services such as catering, laundry and cleaning services. Boards have already been instructed to invite tenders for such tasks. Unions anticipate drastic job losses if privatisation is carried through, and expect that contractors will take on workers at well below current union rates. Gerry Adams says:

"The theory behind privatisation is that outside companies would be more competitive. This would obviously lead to corners being cut by contractors, in order to reduce tenders or increase profit, and result in the deterioration of the services affected."

To fight the continuing cut-backs and privatisation, the various unions organising workers both inside the hospital and in the social services departments outside, are attempting to overcome some inter-union differences and work together through the joint shop stewards committee at the Royal.

Pledging Sinn Féin's full support for trade union efforts to resist the cut-backs, Gerry Adams also stressed the need for the involvement of the community which depends on essential health services if such efforts are to be effective, a necessity which is also recognised by many union members.

Ranganna Gaeilge díbirte ag an Eaglais

LE MÍCHEÁL Ó TUATHAIL

TÁ FÁS mór tagtha ar theagasc na Gaeilge i mBéal Feirste le blianta beaga anuas. Agus tá baint nach beag aige sin leis an troid ar son na saoirse atá ag dul ar aghaidh, mar, ó dheireadh na seascad, tá borradh nua faoin phobal náisiúnach ó Thuaidh.

Sa tsamhraidh i mbliana i gceantar na Poll Glas/Cuana/Gleann Gabhán (Gleann an Lagáin) tháinig dream beag a raibh baint acu le gluaiseacht na Gaeilge le chéile agus bhunaigh siad crochadh nua de Chonradh na Gaeilge, Craobh Liam Uí Mhacollíosa. Tír áfach dírf a bhí iontu a raibh creideamh daingean acu gur chuid iontach tábhachtach d'athghabháil na hÉireann, sináid na Gaeilge.

Chuardaigh an craobh áit le haghaidh ranganna Gaeilge agus ní raibh foirgneamh ar dhóigh ar bith foirstin-

each sa cheantar uilig, ach Cloona House, agus ba leis an Eaglais é sin. Bhí cónaí ar GOC arm na Breataine, an Ginearáid Tuzo i gCloona House sna seachtóidí nuair a bhí sé i mbun Airm na Breataine i dTuaisceart na hÉireann agus nuair a d'fímhá sé, díoladh é leis an Eaglais Caitliceach ar £5,000. Is fiú £100,000 é, ar a laghad.

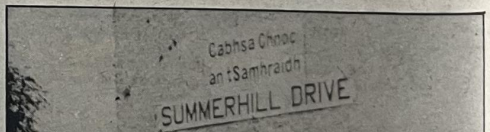
AINMNEACHA

D'iarr an craobh nua de Chonradh na Gaeilge áit do ranganna Gaeilge i gCloona House. Tugadh sin dóibh, agus thosaigh siad ag reachtáil cónaí

rang sa tséachtain, trí rang do dhaoine fásta agus dhá rang do pháistí. Bhí go meith go dtí gur chinn siad ar an rud a dhéanamh atá i dhéanamh i gcuideadh ceantair i mBéal Feirste, sé sin, aistriúcháin Gheille de na sráidainmneacha Béarla a chur suas taobh leis na hainmneacha Béarla, da mba thoil le muintir na háite é.

Cuireadh bílteagail thart ar na dárna sa Pholl Glas, ag larradh ar mhuintir na háite, scaitreadh ar an craobh (tugadh trí uimhir gutháin) le rá leo, na bárdacha a bhí acu faoin smailon-eamh. Scait ar lán daoine agus bhí siad uilig fábhrach ach duine amháin a dídt gur Briotanach é.

Fuarthas litir amháin ina choinne fosta, ag rá cad é an dearsach ar na gnóthaí seo a ba cheart a bheith ag



"Caitliceacha Ultaigh".

TRIOBLÓID

Ach ba ansin a thosaigh an trioblóid. Ag an Ailteann Dá Domhnaigh (6/11/83) chuir an sagart paróiste go tréan in éadan an ruda, agus nuair a thug an craobh freagra poiblí i litir a foilsíodh ar an phléipéir áitiúil, *The Andersonstown News*, chuir an sagart

na ranganna amach sa Cloona House, páistí agus uile. Tá na ranganna ag dul ar aghaidh, ar ndóigh, ach i dtíne príobháideacha.

Ní flos go fóill-cáidé an deireadh a bheas ar an achranach ach tá deimhnithe ag an Craobh go rachaidh siad ar aghaidh le Gaeil na Sráidainmneacha má tá muintir na háite i bhfábhrach leis an scéim.

A blatantly sectarian attack

BY EAMON TRACY

SUNDAY night's attack in Darkley, South Armagh, in which three men were killed, was strongly condemned by both Sinn Féin and the IRA as sectarian and unjustifiable.

Around 6.30pm on Sunday evening, November 20th, around 70 men, women and children were attending a religious service at the Mountain Lodge Pentecostal Church near Darkley, some three miles from Keady in South Armagh. As the congregation were singing hymns, two men firing automatic weapons shot three men at the entrance to the church and then fired into the congregation, injuring a further seven people.

The dead men were named as Howard Brown, Victor Cunningham and David Wilson.

A claim from a group calling itself by the hitherto unheard of name of the 'Catholic Reaction Force' attempted to justify the attack as retaliation for the recent deaths of nationalists at the hands of loyalists and crown forces.

RESPONSE

The IRA's response was quick and to the point. It criticised the attack as a "blatantly



● The Mountain Lodge Pentecostal Assembly Hall, where Sunday's sectarian outrage took place

sectarian shooting". In a statement issued through the Irish Republican Publicity Bureau in Dublin, the IRA said:

"Whilst loyalist politicians and the British administration attempt to project our military struggle and attacks on UDR and RUC personnel as sectarian, there is a clear distinction between our discriminate attacks on these British forces and tonight's shooting, which benefits only the British propaganda

and loyalist extremists."

Jim McAllister, elected Sinn Féin representative for the area in which the attack took place, described the killings as serving "no republican political purpose but does help Britain in its international projection of the troubles as being a religious war."

"If it is an act of revenge or reprisal for the sectarian killings of Catholics, it is wrong

and ill-conceived. The only way to end sectarianism is to end British rule and that should never be lost sight of."

The Sinn Féin president, Gerry Adams MP, described the attacks as 'unjustifiable'. He said:

"Assassinations of Protestants by alleged nationalist, Catholic or republican gangs is unjustifiable, morally and tactically. Sectarianism is alien to republicanism and must be avoided by all anti-imperialist groups.

"The use of force can only be justified in given circumstances and it can only be defended when it is geared to the defence or to the betterment of our people. Sectarian violence must be denounced. To engage in this violence is to fall into the British trap which is based upon the classic counter-insurgency tactic of 'let you and him fight'.

"It is extremely important, not only for the victims of this violence but for the outcome of the entire struggle, that this sectarian violence cease.

"Sinn Féin denies the right of this group to use the murder of Sinn Féin member Peter Corrigan, from Armagh, as justification for their action last night."

Unionists prey on Darkley victims

BY HILDA MacTHOMAS

IN THE LAST few days, unionist politicians have been vying with each other like vultures over the dead bodies of the Darkley victims: a walk-out from Stormont, demands for more SAS and for the internment of Sinn Féin representatives, and threats of bringing back the Third Force.

Point-scoring was brisk as statements of condemnation and righteous indignation came from all quarters. However, those posturings have achieved little other than to highlight the cynicism of unionist politicians, and their and the British government's inability to defeat republican resistance.

The Darkley killings were an insane, indefensible act of sectarian revenge, with little or no political motive.

Their political repercussions, however, might range from a total collapse of Prior's Assembly, to Prior's resignation, to a split in the Official Unionist Party, and to a revamping of Paisley's Third Force.

All those unionist politicians, conspicuous by their silence when nationalists were being murdered by the RUC and other loyalist gangs, came out in their droves on Sunday night and Monday morning, asking for "the police and the army to be given a free hand to clean up the situation once and for all."

Seemingly disappointed that the IRA, not only was not involved in the killings but also condemned them, as did Sinn Féin, some politicians nevertheless attempted to blame the Republican Movement for Darkley. The Workers' Party's Seamus Lynch commented:

"So much for the hand of friendship to the Protestant people that Mr Adams spoke about recently."

The Alliance's John Cousins said Adams was "as much responsible for the Darkley massacre as if he had been there". And Hugh Fraser of the Official Unionist Party said:

"These latest killings demonstrate just how far the republican paramilitaries are prepared to stoop in order to bring about a united Ireland."

CONDEMNED

In the Free State media, although the news pages generally made it clear that both the IRA and Sinn Féin condemned such sectarian killings and distinguished IRA action from such outrages, editorials at-

tempted to place the guilt on the nationalist or Catholic population as a whole and called for surrender to British oppression as the only means of atonement.

For the establishment politicians Garret Fitzgerald, with his usual sickening insincerity, put forward the same view, attempting to smear republicanism with a sectarian label:

"If there are any who would defend or condone this act, or any other aspect of the so-called republicanism that has spawned this kind of outrage, let every decent person on this island repudiate them utterly."

PROPAGANDA

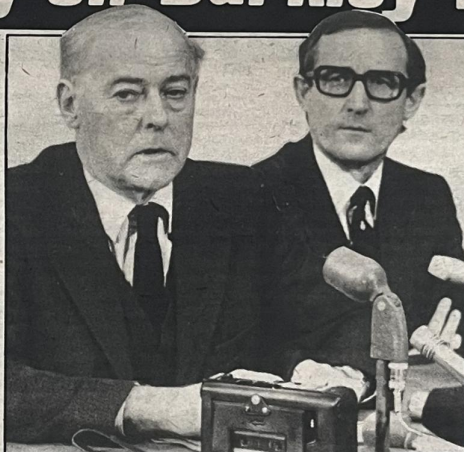
Indeed, quite a few unionists, who correctly see the RUC, UDR and British army as the 'armed wing of unionism', interpreted Darkley as part of a plan to slaughter all the Protestants in order to achieve Irish unity. This type of explanation has been used by British governments down the years, and no doubt will be used again in relation to Darkley.

The British government will seek to portray, through its European and American PR outlets, the 'barbaric' and 'bigoted' nature of the Irish struggle. In the context of recent IRA successes, with the great escape from the H-Blocks at the end of September, the bombing on the RUC course at the Polytechnic, and the recent intensification of attacks on military targets, Darkley will in fact be a godsend to the Brits, who will be able to describe themselves, not as military occupiers of a foreign country, but as 'peace-keepers' in a land torn by religious wars.

CONFERENCE

On Sunday, November 20th, the Official Unionists were in a confident mood after their weekend annual conference which confirmed Molyneux and the integrationists as the leading force in the OUP.

Prior's Assembly had been attacked by many delegates at the conference, as a "toothless monster",



● Official Unionist leaders James Molyneux and Harold McCusker seized upon the Darkley killings as a pretext to express OUP anti-Assembly feelings and withdraw from Stormont

and demands were made for increased powers for the Assembly. The OUP did not have to wait too long to find a way of expressing those anti-Assembly feelings. Some hours later, they were able to use the Darkley killings as a pretext for withdrawing from Stormont, in an attempt to outflank any dramatic move by Paisley's DUP, such as the deployment of Third Force units.

On Sunday night, OUP deputy-leader Harold McCusker declared: "We are no longer prepared to play-act at the Stormont talking-shop."

And the next day, OUP leader James Molyneux, having described the Assembly as "nothing more than a formal device for ritual protest", announced that his party was leaving the Assembly, until, he said, SAS units were drafted into South Armagh, the British army presence was reinforced along the border, and some form of administrative devolution was set up with the Assembly being given "powers of administration over areas taken away from local government 10 years ago."

The third demand obviously means that Darkley was only of minor concern to the OUP, who

have been waiting for over a year for a pretext to sabotage Prior's Assembly which would be understood by unionist voters.

However, the OUP walk-out was not universally well-received. Apart from the predictable criticism from DUP and Alliance Assembly members, now numbering 31, out of a total of 78 seats, and apart from Prior's quiet desperation at his Assembly's collapse, the OUP walk-out was also described in the moderate unionist daily, the *Belfast Telegraph*, as badly timed.

"It has the appearance," the editorial said, "of an instant, emotional reaction, reflecting opportunism rather than judgement."

The pro-SDLP *Irish News*, on the other hand, expressed satisfaction at the Assembly's demise.

In the long-run, those reactions, coupled with the internal grumblings inside the OUP from those devolutionists who want to work in Prior's Assembly, are likely to push the OUP back into Stormont, unless the party tears itself asunder in the process.

EXCUSE

There is little doubt that loyalist gangs will use Darkley as an excuse

to carry out further assassination attempts on nationalists. Indeed, two such attempts have already taken place, one in Lurgan, the other in West Belfast. However, loyalists are more likely to focus their attacks on Sinn Féin personnel and premises, with the tacit approval of unionist politicians, who, since Sinn Féin's election successes, but especially since the last ard fheis, have concentrated their venom on Sinn Féin and its newly-elected president.

James Molyneux, in his address to the OUP conference on Saturday, November 19th, assured the delegates:

"Mr Adams will never win because we have the determination and the staying power to ensure that the blight of Sinn Féin and all its sordid thuggery is removed from this land."

On Tuesday, the Official Unionist Party, in a delegation to James Prior, asked for the re-introduction of internment for Sinn Féin representatives — an indication of the threat Sinn Féin has become for unionism and British rule in Ireland.

PRIOR

The other target for unionist attacks was British direct-ruler James Prior, who was asked to resign by nearly every unionist politician.

Official Unionist deputy-leader Harold McCusker, calling him 'wet' and 'inept', appealed to Thatcher to "rid us of this bungler". The DUP joined in the call for Prior to go, and on Monday night, at Westminster, Prior was forced to make it clear that he wouldn't resign, and insisted that he had Thatcher's backing. However, in the last few weeks Thatcher must have been considering the political future of Prior, whom she despatched to Britain's Irish colony in 1981, as a kind of political exile. The prison Governor of Long Kesh will probably carry the can for the H-Block escape, but if another scapegoat is needed Thatcher would not hesitate to end Prior's political career in order to try and appease the unionists.

It is an indication of how unstable the six-county state is as a political unit that the Darkley killings could cause such destabilisation of the political situation.

BY JOHN GILL

CONSTANT neglect has left families in the Liberties area of Dublin desperate for rehousing as they find their walls and ceilings crumbling around them and their landlord, Christy Dalton, continues to ignore a court order demanding immediate repairs to the house.

All these families live in a 200-year-old house, owned by Dalton, at Mark's Alley, off Francis Street. In this house, besides intolerable living conditions, the tenant in the top flat, Teresa O'Connell, who lives with her daughter, has to endure agoraphobia (a fear of open spaces). Except for periods in hospital she has not been outside her flat for seven years.

Dampness, which penetrates the house, and cracks in the walls and ceiling, are so bad in the O'Connells' flat that in one room they cannot light a fire, fearful that the ceiling will cave in.

Last week another tenant in the house, 78-year-old Mrs Clarke, was found dead in her middle-floor flat. Although she had lived in the house for almost 60 years, Dalton had refused her any compensation for necessary repairs to her home.

On one occasion a rotten window cord, which she had wanted fixed, snapped and as the window slammed shut the pane of glass smashed. It cost her £10 to get a replacement but Dalton had refused to give her the money on the grounds that the amount of rent she paid was too small to justify repairs.

CLOSING ORDER

Although there is a closing order on the

MISERY IN MARK'S ALLEY



● Workmen hired by landlord Christy Dalton to do repairs caused unnecessary damage to the bedroom wall of Teresa O'Connell's flat, thus adding to her misery and intolerable living conditions

house, Dalton continues to admit tenants such as the McGaleys, a young married couple who live in the bottom flat.

They believe they were conned into taking the flat since they weren't told of the

closing order. Their rent, at £27 per week, is more than four times that paid by the previous tenant.

Because of lack of points, they have little hope of rehousing, their only option being to go homeless. With three holes in

their ceiling where the plaster has fallen in and no door in their outside toilet, the McGaleys have also had problems with the rotting windows. While cleaning a pane of glass the window slammed shut, fracturing Rose McGaley's thumb.

Following the court order to repair the house, Dalton hired builders to fix the roof. Having stripped off slates the work was 'postponed' for two weeks during which the landings in the house were flooded by rainwater.

APPEALS

Despite representations and appeals to establishment politicians, nothing has been done for the tenants. With 78 points, Teresa O'Connell is eligible for a flat and would like somewhere in the immediate area. When offered a flat in St Michael's Estate in Inchicore she turned it down:

"St Michael's Estate for a woman in my condition is no use. Sure, I may as well go to Japan."

Dublin Corporation is believed to be putting further legal pressure on Dalton to repair 'his' house but in view of his neglect to date a spokesperson for the local Frank Stagg Sinn Féin cumann said:

"This is a clear example of how people young and old are being treated unfairly by landlords whose concern is profit. Most of them don't give a damn about the deplorable conditions their tenants have to live in."

Anger in Ballymurphy

BY JANE PLUNKETT

A CHRONICALLY ILL West Belfast girl is no longer able to use her specially equipped bedroom for fear of rats which for several years have been allowed, through the indifference of government agencies, to infest the area where she lives.

Rosemary McManus, aged 16, has suffered since birth from brittle bones (osteogenesis imperfecta). Her family has lost count of the number of broken or cracked bones and operations she has undergone. Until last week, to avoid the risk of injury on the stairs, Rosemary slept downstairs in a hospital bed in the converted dinette of the McManus family's home in Divismore Park, Ballymurphy.

However, since last Monday week, November 14th, when Rosemary's elder brother, Arthur, killed a large rat in the kitchen, which is adjacent to her bedroom, Rosemary has been forced to sleep upstairs, and it is so

terrified that she keeps the light on all night.

The rat was one of hundreds which plague the area and which breed in a culverted river-and-domestic-drainage system at the back of Divismore Park. On many occasions at night, residents have reported seeing hordes of rats running up and down the street. Despite repeated complaints over the years by individual tenants, government agencies have taken no action to eradicate the alarming public health hazard.

AUTHORITIES

Rosemary's mother, 47-year-old Anne McManus, is angry that the public health authorities, whom City Hall rodent exterminators promised to contact immediately following last Monday

week's incident, have still not put in an appearance. The Housing Executive have likewise failed to investigate how the rats gain entry to local houses, just as they have failed, over the years, to carry out necessary repairs to the McManus family's crumbling Orilt house.

But Anne is grateful at least that her daughter Rosemary was asleep when the rat was killed and thus avoided a shock which could have caused her to fall. According to Anne, a mother of 10 children:

"It doesn't take much to put her over, and if she had come out of bed I guarantee you she would have been broken into pieces, because she would have fallen."

About two years ago, another of Anne's daughters, 14-year-old Teresa, spent several months in Belvoir Park isolation hospital after she contracted rat-induced jaundice. Teresa has been weak and in poor health ever since, and Anne McManus who is herself a diabetic, will not let her young grandchildren play in the



back garden of her home.

Anne, like other residents, is enraged at the authorities' indifference:

"If they don't do something, some child is really going to be hurt. I wouldn't leave a child outside in a pram. And what if a wee child even lifts something that a rat has touched?"



● Anne McManus points to the rat holes in her back garden, and (left) one of the rats killed by the family in their kitchen

HOUSING EXECUTIVE SLAMMED

BY EAMON TRACEY

SINN FEIN has called for united action against a proposal by the North's Housing Executive that they change the present tenancy agreement with those living in their dwellings by placing the onus for certain types of repairs on the tenant.

John Gorman, chief executive of the Housing Executive, revealed, at a meeting in Ballymena on Thursday, November 17th, that the present tenancy agreement was being reviewed. He said:

"It is clear that within our existing tenancy agreement there is some scope for the transfer of repair responsibilities, without placing an unreasonable burden on tenants."

The 'minor repairs' which the Executive proposes to foist on tenants in-

clude repairs to paths, walls and fences; repair of internal woodwork and responsibility for unblocking drains and external painting.

Sinn Féin's Richard McAuley pointed out:

"The reality for Executive tenants is that most are on benefits of one kind or another, or on low wages, and have great difficulty making ends meet."

"It is impossible and impractical for such a proposal to work. This policy, if implemented, is clearly a mechanism

whereby the Executive can legitimise what has in reality been its policy for years."

A crucial question which remains unanswered is whether or not the Executive will prosecute tenants who fail to carry out repairs under the new tenancy agreement.

SPONGERS

Within day of announcing a new attack on tenants' rights and living standards, Gorman lashed those whom he claimed were 'milking the system in a big way'. His accusation of 'spongers' living high on the fat of the welfare state was quickly attacked by West Belfast MP Gerry Adams, who said:

"Like so many of his bureaucratic



● Whilst John Gorman enjoys the comforts of his nice home and cosy job, he claims that tenants demanding their rights are 'milking the system in a big way'

counterparts, Gorman does not produce facts to substantiate such scandalous claims. However, the people who are victims of such abusive statements know some facts which appear to constantly escape the attention of the likes of Mr Gorman.

"The present system fails miserably to cater for the needy. Low benefits and

wages are matched by high food, rent, fuel, clothing and electricity costs.

"The recently announced mini-budget shows clearly that the British government are intent on further punishing the poor and those on low wages for a disastrous social and economic climate which is not of their making."

Paid perjury laughed out of court

BY JANE PLUNKETT

ACKNOWLEDGING that RUC paid perjurer John Grimley "lived in a sort of half-world between reality and charade", Lord Justice Gibson on Wednesday threw out the charges against seven of the 18 men in the dock in Belfast Crown Court on the basis of Grimley's statements.

The 18 had been facing over 70 charges, including attempted killings, arson and INLA membership. One of the defendants, Sean Flynn, jumped bail and three men eventually pleaded guilty to the charges against them.

During Wednesday's hearing, 40-year-old Grimley — who had earlier admitted joining the British army three times under false pretences and twice obtained discharge by feigning suicide attempts — was referred to by Gibson as an habitual criminal whose life had been one of lies and deceit from an early age.

Gibson said that Grimley's evidence was unreliable and self-contradictory, adding that he was a man motivated by self-interest whose whole life and evidence was

characterised by instability.

VESTIGE

In order to maintain a vestige of credibility in the North's corrupt judiciary, the judge, who had presided over days of farcical cross-examination which had on numerous occasions provoked hilarity even among the press benches, was obliged to make some token acquittals, admitting:

"I do not think anyone could avoid the conclusion that his evidence was such that one could place absolutely no reliance on it."

Gibson also referred to Grimley's record of 40 convictions for a variety of criminal activities. These included forgery, petty theft, and two six-month sentences served in



JOHN GRIMLEY

the South, one for assaulting and robbing a 58-year-old man, the other for assaulting his wife in a pub.

Grimley, a man with a record of habitual drunkenness, had admitted in court to spending six months in an Armagh mental hospital at the age of 16. Grimley had, not surprisingly, refused to allow defence counsel to examine his medical records, or to allow himself to be examined by a psychiatrist nominated by the defence.

On one occasion, on Thursday, November 10th, Grimley provoked particular hilarity in court by stating:

"I will never sit here and tell a lie — I mean a serious lie."

MORASS

Clearing away the morass of lies, it is clear that Grimley was

paid by the RUC to sign false statements.

His cross-examination revealed that Grimley had lied consistently — to anyone who had befriended him, to the judge and to the RUC. These lies included several contradictory claims that he had been in the pay of the RUC for several years during which time, he further claimed, he had been providing genuine information about INLA activities.

Evidently, the utter discrediting of Grimley as a witness had been

foreseen by the RUC, for five of those acquitted by Gibson remain in custody, having been charged in recent months on the word of Harry Kirkpatrick, who himself has apparently agreed to act as a RUC perjurer in exchange for a reduction in the life prison sentence he is currently serving.

The Grimley trial was due to resume this Thursday afternoon (November 24th) after an adjournment to allow defence lawyers to consult with the remaining 11 people in the dock.

PRISON PROVOCATIONS

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

REPUBLICAN POWs in the H-Blocks and Armagh Jail have expressed their frustration at prison regimes which are deliberately set upon provoking conflict within the jails through a systematic campaign of petty and vindictive incidents.

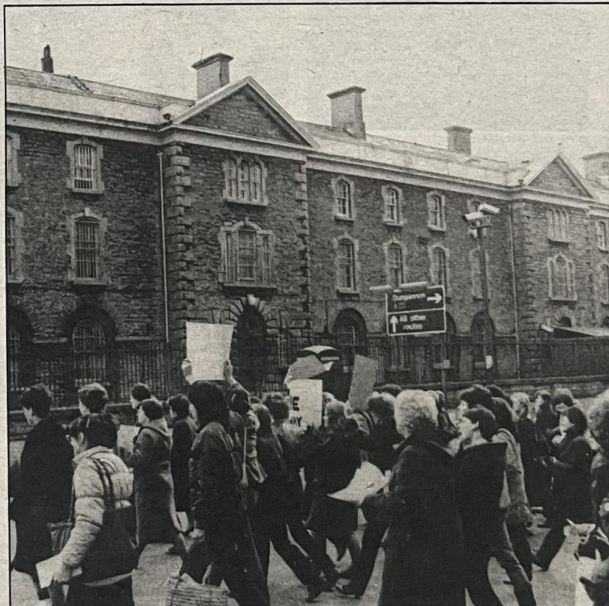
Visits to 190 prisoners in the H-Blocks, Long Kesh, were cancelled without warning last Wednesday week, November 16th, as an intense search operation was carried out. Each cell was thoroughly searched and the 800 prisoners were confined from 9am that morning until late evening without being allowed to go to the toilet. Visitors travelling long distances from Derry and other outlying areas, accompanied by young children, were turned away from the jail and parcels were refused. The search, sparked off by the discovery of a gun in a loyalist block, was the sixth intensive operation within as many weeks and greatly angered POWs who were denied washing facilities and were forced to eat in their cells.

Personal property belonging to the prisoners was also confiscated by wardens on the flimsiest excuse.

POLICY

The continuation of the Prison Officers' Association's controlled movement policy in the H-Blocks is deliberately aimed at disrupting daily routine and causing friction. As yet, the NIO have not regained control of the situation with the go-slow continuing. This has inevitably led to a few incidents of direct confrontation between prisoners and wardens.

H-Block prisoners are confined to their cells and only allowed to wash, slop-out or use the toilet one at a time. All their meals are cold when delivered and, for the sixth week now, all of the 19 re-captured escapes remain scattered throughout the Blocks and



● Demonstrators outside Armagh Jail on International Women's Day 1983 in support of the republican POWs

are still receiving 'closed visits'.

These closed visits were introduced by the POA as an initial 'temporary measure' while an RUC enquiry was pending into the circumstances of the escape.

However, the closed visits are continuing

despite the prisoners being informed by the NIO that all RUC enquiries have been completed.

The POWs point out that because of the introduction of new search procedures, such as metal detectors being used and random

searches before and after visits, closed visits are absolutely unnecessary and are being used to victimise themselves and their families.

PRACTICE

Meanwhile, in Armagh Jail the harassment of republican POWs continues with prisoners losing association periods for calling lock-up orders, a practice which republican prisoners have done for years.

Two prisoners, Christine Beattie and Ellen McGuigan, were also placed on charges for this practice and Briege Ann McCaughy was put in solitary confinement on a trumped-up assault charge. When she was moved from A to B Wing her cell was stripped bare and she was informed that she had lost a further seven days' loss of all privileges, including visits and parcels, until November 25th.

And after a slight relaxation period, the degrading strip-searching of remand prisoners is being stepped up again for trivial five-minute court appearances, Siobhan O'Hanlon being left completely naked with only a small sheet covering her for ten minutes before a warder demanded to inspect her body. It is reported that Siobhan was extremely upset by the incident. Marie Wright was stripped going to court and then again just 15 minutes later.

Two other remand prisoners, Maureen O'Neill and Alice Taylor, who are awaiting sentence following their recent trial, were stripped twice daily, going to and from court.

PERSONAL

Prison Governor Thomas Murtagh is intensifying his campaign of victimisation against republican prisoners, both on a personal basis and through prison wardens, in an effort to break morale and undermine their command structure.

So-called prison rules are being changed regularly so that prisoners, who are never informed of the changes until they break them, are being brought up on petty trumped-up charges.

Ann Marie Quinn, for example, was put on report for going to Sinead Moore's cell for a packet of sweets, then later she was put on report again for dancing during association period. Another prisoner was put on report for turning the light out to watch television. This had, until then, been normal practice.

BY JACK MADDEN

THE INCREASED politicisation of the judiciary and the special provisions allowed for extradition between the Free State and Britain, were highlighted as the main contributory factors in the rising level of extradition proceedings against republicans living in the twenty-six counties, at a seminar in Liberty Hall, Dublin, on Thursday, November 17th.

At present, three people are fighting extradition to the North from the Free State on the basis of political charges.

Philip McMahon is awaiting an appeal to the Dublin Supreme Court against the High Court's decision to reverse its previous rulings and order his extradition for escaping from Newry Courthouse in 1975.

Seamus Shannon is awaiting an appeal to the High Court of a District Court order for his extradition in connection with the Tynan Abbey attack in 1981. And Hugh Torney is similarly appealing a District Court order for his extradition to face charges based on the evidence of the INLA paid perjurer Harry Kirkpatrick.

The highly informative seminar was chaired by Uinseann Mac Eoin and included as speakers Anthony Coughlan of the Irish Sovereignty Movement, solicitor Ciaran Mac an Aili, Matt Merrigan of the ATGWU and Fr Des Wilson of Ballymurphy.

Introducing the speakers, Mac Eoin pointed out that notices of the seminar had been sent to all newspapers but these had not been printed and added:

"The suffocation and censorship of the press is despicable, but the rising political ferment will burst through this censorship."

BACKGROUND

Ciaran Mac an Aili gave an outline of the legal background to extradition, pointing out the distinction between extradition of criminals for whom "international crime must be mobile to survive", and whose extradition is "a rational enough process", and, on the other hand, political refugees whose right to asylum and protection from tyrannical governments throughout the world is a strong tradition. He added:

"Before 1921, a 'backing of warrant' system operated between Ireland and the United Kingdom whereby offenders were simply sent back. This system isn't extradition proper to international law because, to be authentic, extradition must be protective of the citizen. Today we have a neo-colonial system where 'backing of warrants' still effectively takes place". (In such a system, evidence need not be produced, a warrant being enough to secure extradition.)

"Abduction, as a method or alternative to extradition, was indistinguishable in the Free State before 1965, with people simply being dumped at the border. After 1965 came uniformity of law with the international extradition treaty, signed by the Dublin government. This provides that 'extradition shall not be granted if the offence in respect of which it is committed is regarded as a political offence'. It is not the state requesting extradition but the requested state which decides if the offence is political."

Pointing out that the Free State has not applied this treaty in its relations with Britain and that in Part 3 of the Extradition Act provision was allowed for such a 'special relationship', Mac an Aili continued:

"In all cases in this decade when extradition has been beaten, it wasn't because the Free State government said the offence was political but because the judge decided."

LIMERICK

The first real test of the system was the attempted extradition of Limerick man, the late Sean Bourke, who, as a criminal prisoner in an English jail was involved in the escape of George Blake, a Soviet spy, from custody. Although it was admitted in the Dublin Supreme Court that Bourke was motivated by personal rather than political considerations, extradition was refused on the grounds that the offence was connected to a political offence.

"In view of this decision, how can we view a case where an escapee from custody in the six counties in what was patently a political offence should be extradited?" asked Mac an Aili, in reference to the High Court's upholding of the extradition of Philip McMahon.

Commenting on the definition of the term 'political', Mac an Aili said:

"To be a combatant in armed conflict and not the status of combatant as 'terrorist', 'bandit' etc, is the basis of judging whether an offence is political and political protection."



● GREG O'NEILL

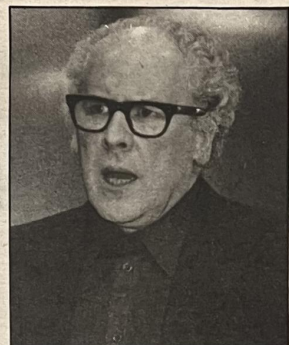


● TONY COUGHLAN



● MATT MERRIGAN

Extradition denounced



● FR DES WILSON

ion is afforded to those involved in guerrilla warfare."



● CIARAN MAC AN AILI

PROCEEDINGS

Following media reports that Seamus Shannon had withdrawn his appeal against extradition proceedings in connection with the killing of Sir Norman Stronge and his RUC son at Tynan Abbey in Armagh two years ago, a special address was made by his solicitor, Greg O'Neill, who denounced the reports as rubbish, based on the word of a single journalist "who must have had his ears covered in court". Adding that the appeal would continue he said:

"Please God, it never will be likely that Seamus Shannon will be extradited to the North."

Matt Merrigan warned that the current political situation has led to repeated attempts to lower the standard of legal processes and that Free State governments have been 'amenable' to pressure from successive British administrations.

Adding that political pressure is needed to maintain and upgrade the law, he said that resistance to extradition "is doubly important in view of the existence of non-jury Diplock courts, what is called the 'super-grass' system and the unethical police methods used to extract information in the North."

AWARENESS

The lack of public awareness of the threat

posed by extradition was emphasised by Anthony Coughlan, who said:

"The principle of the non-extradition of political defendants goes back to the Napoleonic wars and the classic case which explains the meaning of 'political' in international law as an offence committed in showing disapproval of a government or state or which seeks to overthrow a government or state."

"Whether the particular act for which a person is being extradited is morally objectionable or not, is not at stake, but whether the act was at odds with the state which applies for the extradition."

"What should really worry civil libertarians is that there is clearly a process of politicisation within the Irish judiciary which seems willing to bend the generally recognised principles of international law to suit the political necessities of the Irish government of the day. Judges are supposed to interpret the law as the law and not take political considerations into account."

Describing the judgement last December of Chief Justice O'Higgins in the case for extradition against Dominic McGlinchey as a 'highly political interpretation' Coughlan continued:

"Now you don't have to make a case, you only have to allege a case against a defendant in seeking extradition."

CORRUPT

Comparing the downward trend of legal

'justice' in the South to the position in the six counties, Fr Des Wilson said:

"I believe the government here is going the same way and adopting a terrible and corrupt and corrupting system. If you allow extradition to occur you are giving credibility to that system. When people say that the system can't be compared to situations in dictatorships I tell them that every one of those dictatorships were at one time at the point we are at now."

"Emergency legislation is being made into normal legislation and I firmly believe there is no way you can prevent this unless you stand against every derogation of civil liberty."

RESOLUTION

The Seminar adopted the following resolution:

"1. This meeting, having reviewed the operation of Part 3 of the Extradition Act 1965 which applies a neo-colonial 'backing of warrants' process of extradition as between this state and the United Kingdom, in contrast to the normal extradition process between other sovereign states provided for in Part 2 of the Act;

"2. And having noted this 'backing of warrants' is operated solely with the United Kingdom under Part 3 and affords less protection for political offenders than the full protection of international law provided for in Part 2;

"3. And having noted recent remarks in a Supreme Court judgement in an extradition case as indicating a seeming intent amongst certain judges of the Supreme Court to abolish or undermine the right of political asylum for political offenders;

"4. And having reviewed the provision of the European Convention on Extradition to which this state is a ratifying signatory, and notes a similar contract in the protection afforded by the Convention and Part 2 of the Act;

"Calls on the government to:-

"Repeal Part 3 of the Extradition Act 1965 and to end the 'backing of warrants' system with the United Kingdom.

"Either defer any extradition treaty with the United Kingdom until such time as the United Kingdom recognises the right of the Irish people to freedom in national unity or, if a sufficient reason exists for such a treaty before then, that it be entered into on a normal basis as between sovereign states, granting the fullest protection to political offenders and the rights of political asylum."

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IRIS No.7

THE seventh edition of the republican magazine *IRIS* (reviewed in *AP/RN*, November 10th), is now on sale.

As always, *IRIS* provides an excellent range of articles, from Sinn Féin national organiser Paddy Bolger's analysis of the party in the South, *Which way forward in the Free State*, to an IRA Volunteer's riveting account of five days spent in an IRA training camp and *No 'home' in the occupied West Bank*, the first-hand experiences of Samon Taggart during his stay at a Palestinian refugee camp in Dheisheh.

There are also two articles examining the divisions and failures of the women's movement in Ireland and one on Section 31 of the Free State's Broadcasting Act, *A decade of censorship*. *IRIS* costs Stg £1 in the North, Ir £1.20 in the South and Stg £1.50 Britain and elsewhere (add 50p postage to all prices). Available from *IRIS* Distribution, 51/53 Falls Road, Belfast.



1984 calendar

THE 1984 Republican Resistance Calendar is now available from Republican Publications.

It features exclusive full-colour photographs of IRA Volunteers in action and wall murals, and significant dates in Ireland's history and the latest phase of the struggle for freedom.

This excellently produced and colourful calendar is available from 2a Monagh Crescent, Turf Lodge, Belfast (telephone 620788), price Stg £1; or 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1 (telephone 726932), price Ir £1.20. Please add postage when ordering.



Christmas cards

CHRISTMAS CARDS (illustrated above) are now available from the Sinn Féin National Finance Committee, 44 Parnell Square, Dublin 1, price £2 for 12 (including postage) for orders from Ireland and Britain.

Co-operatives

A Chára,

James Connolly said:

"When Ireland emerges into complete control of her own destiny, she must seek the happiness of her people by the extension, on a national basis, of the social arrangements of Rahaline."

Connolly was speaking of the first co-operative ever to be set up in this country — the Clare-based Rahaline Agricultural & Manufacturing Co-operative, founded in 1831.

The objectives of that co-operative were very similar to the objectives of worker co-operatives today:

1. The acquisition of common capital.
2. The mutual assistance of its members against the evils of poverty, sickness, infirmity and old age.
3. The attainment of a greater share of the comforts of life than the working-class possessed at the time.
4. The mental and moral improvement of its adult members.
5. The education of their children.

It's now 1983 — 152 years later. Connolly would be very disillusioned with the Ireland of today.

He envisaged a people who, through co-operation, resourcefulness, and a pooling of their individual talents and abilities, would control their own work-places and work together for the common good of the whole nation.

Instead we have a people who have lost their self-esteem, all their dignity, and have a very poor opinion of their own worth.

The power-centralised structure of our workplaces and institutions, breeds a robot-like, conforming, dulled and de-sensitised citizen. The educational system, the media, the church, not to mention the EEC, combine to rob the individual of control over his/her life.

The economic policies of successive Free State governments, in giving tax-free incentives to multinationals, have been disastrous for our workers.

Those who are lucky enough to have a job are regarded as units of production, which must be streamlined, supervised, and managed, according to the demands of the production unit.

The unemployed are left feeling helpless and worthless in the dole-queue, as one by one, these same multinationals pull out to look for cheap labour in the Third World countries, or substitute labour with new technology.

The workers have had little encouragement in their formative years, either to make decisions, take initiatives, or to act collectively. Instead they have been encouraged to compete with one another at all levels and have been actively encouraged to adopt a dependent attitude where others will provide them with jobs.

We must rescue our self-esteem and dignity. When workers collectively control their work-places, only then will they realise their full potential.

There already exists a few worker co-operatives in Ireland.

mála poist

H-Block brutality

A Chára,

In the aftermath of the escape from this prison on Sunday, September 25th, the media ignored reports from inside the prison of the injuries inflicted on 90 prisoners by rampaging prison staff. This is an account of what happened to two prisoners from Fermanagh who were in H-Block.

Early on Sunday evening, Eugene Cosgrove, from Roslea, was dragged from his cell, spread-eagled against the wall and punched and kicked. He was strip-searched and thrown into a cell already vandalised by the search team.

After four hours in the cell, during which he could hear his comrades on the wing being beaten, he was taken out of the cell and made to run a gauntlet of screws who rained blows from fists, boots and batons down on him.

He was strip-searched again and, handcuffed and barefoot, dragged by the hair past the Screws again and into the circle, being constantly beaten and kicked on the way.

Here, Screws and dog-handlers had taken up position between H-Blocks 7 and 8, and Eugene was bitten by the Alsatian dogs on his back, shoulders and legs.



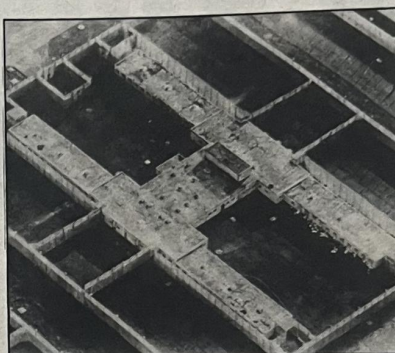
● The unemployed are left feeling helpless and worthless in the dole-queue

These are mostly conversions from private companies where the initial motivation was to maintain jobs, for example, the Navan Bedding Society. They are, in fact, the 'children of crisis'. Other co-operatives have started but because of lack of business expertise have closed down.

We compare very badly to countries such as Italy, France, England and the Basque country.

In England, in spite of the recession, or maybe because of it, four new co-operatives a week are starting up.

The Mondragon co-operatives in the Basque country have gone from strength to strength in the past 25 years and are now employing 18,000 workers.



He was almost knocked unconscious by baton-blows before he reached the gate to H8, where yet another attack was made by a Screw who savagely kicked and punched him.

Despite his injuries, Eugene was not allowed to see a doctor for 10 days.

Marcus Murray, from Donagh, was recaptured shortly after the

escape and spent five days in Castlereagh Interrogation Centre. He was returned to Long Kesh in the 'horsebox' (a large van, with separate cubicles which prisoners are locked into).

On arrival at reception, he was dragged out of the van by the hair and put into a cubicle, under a hail of punches and kicks. A PO arrived, jabbed a clipboard

Armagh ambush

A Chára,

The Clarke/McVerry Sinn Féin cumann in Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin, wishes to thank the organising committee of the Michael McVerry commemoration at Cullyhanna, County Armagh, for their invitation to the ceremony on Sunday last, and for the welcome they received on arrival.

The bus taking 20 members and friends from the Clarke/McVerry and Jenkinson/Moran cumann home from the commemoration was stopped at a Brit/RUC checkpoint near Crossmaglen.

The passengers were forced to get off the bus and were searched, while two members of the Clarke/McVerry cumann were singled out for particular harassment and abuse.

They were spread-eagled against the bus for 20 minutes and one man was punched in the groin, while being threatened several times with arrest.

In spite of the harassment from the Brits and the RUC, Dun Laoghaire Sinn Féin intend to make the trip an annual event. Particular thanks to Michael's father and to Sinn Féin elected representative Jim McAllister for

into his throat and promised that he would make Marcus' life 'pure hell'. He was then stripped naked and forced into a room where a doctor noted any marks on his body.

A squad of Screws, who were literally battering prisoners from the reception building to the punishment cells, threw him into a van and made him lie face down.

His head was repeatedly banged on the floor as the Screws ground their heels into his back and legs. His face was bashed against an iron grille and he was constantly kicked until he reached the punishment cells where he was kept for three weeks, covered in cuts and bruises.

This letter will not result in these Screws being indicted, nor will it heal the wounds of these unfortunate prisoners, but perhaps it has made readers aware of the treatment meted out in the prison camps in this country.

Whether these Screws tortured naked defenceless men out of revenge, frustration, sectarianism or just drunkenness is not the issue — a Screw does not need a reason to beat a prisoner. All he requires is the opportunity, the back-up to ensure his safety and the connivance of his superiors.

In the hours and days following the escape all these conditions existed and full advantage was taken of them.

PRO,

Fermanagh republican POWs, H-Blocks, Long Kesh.

a most interesting and informative day.

Terry Flynn, Clarke/McVerry cumann, Dun Laoghaire, County Dublin.

Refuse charges

A Chára,

A petition, organised by the Bobby Sands Sinn Féin cumann in Killybeg, County Kerry, against the recently introduced refuse collection charges levied by Kerry County Council was signed by 91 people from four housing estates in Killybeg.

Staff at the council's offices refused to accept the petition and were told by an unknown official, by telephone, to 'show them the way out'.

The majority of people in the area are opposed to this charge of £20 being imposed and condemned it as 'rates by the back door' and 'more taxation'. They also condemned a government who granted themselves a 19% pay rise while demanding more and more from ordinary people.

Dave O'Shea, Secretary, Bobby Sands cumann, Killybeg, County Kerry.

IRISH CLASSES EXPANDING

SINN FEIN now has 24 Irish classes taking place in Belfast, a meeting of Irish language teachers in the city on Tuesday this week was told.

Sinn Féin's Cultural Department spokesperson Máirtín Ó Muilleoir told the meeting in the Felons' Club, Andersonstown, that learning Irish was a basic step in resisting British rule in Ireland.

"We must work to de-anglicise our country and, in the process, make people aware of the proud Irish identity and culture which has survived all the ravages of imperialism."

"The Anglo-American culture prevalent in Ireland serves the interests of our oppressors and must be discarded if we are to obtain true freedom. The noble tradition of reviving the Irish language and culture is an integral

part of republicanism. Therefore we should encourage all our members and supporters to learn and speak the Irish language."

During the meeting, discussion was held on the forthcoming 'fainne' exam, on the role of prisoners in the cultural revival and on the need for social events and weekend courses where pupils could perfect the Irish they know.

Details were also announced of several new Sinn Féin classes planned to start in January and of a poster campaign in Belfast to promote the language.



● The Irish language teachers' meeting in the Andersonstown Felons' Club on Tuesday



● Two youngsters look on at the monument commemorating the three IRA Volunteers killed in the Kilmichael ambush

ON SUNDAY, November 28th 1920, IRA Volunteers from the Cork No. 3 Brigade, led by Tom Barry, carried out a dramatic ambush at Kilmichael, near Macroom, County Cork. A detachment of 18 Auxiliaries travelling in two lorries was wiped out, their lorries destroyed and arms and ammunition captured.

In the attack, one of the most successful in the Tan War, three IRA Volunteers also died, shot dead by a group of Auxiliaries in the second lorry who had pretended to surrender. It was after this treachery that Barry ordered his men to fire until he told them to stop. The Auxiliaries paid the price of their treachery and none survived to tell the tale.

When their bodies were found the next morning the British propaganda machine got to work and, with the help of large sections of the press in both Ireland and England, they immediately spread the lie that:

"Inspection reveals that they have nearly all as many as half a dozen bullet wounds and that they have been terribly mutilated, as though hacked with hatchets."

Other reports amplified the lies such as the report by the Chief Secretary to the House of Commons which said:

"The ambush consisted of 80 to 100 men, dressed in khaki, with steel helmets... By sheer force of numbers, the poor fellows were disarmed and brutally murdered."

The veteran campaigners of a World War who filled the ranks of the Auxiliaries suddenly became 'young cadets' while the young IRA men, who invariably wore civilian dress, were described as highly organised, well-armed and ruthless, and were even accused of stealing rings and other personal belongings from the dead bodies of the Auxiliaries.

IMPERIAL FACE

In a further attempt to save imperial face the point was continuously made that not only had the IRA lost no Volunteers but the poor Auxiliaries never even got a chance to return fire. One can readily understand Tom Barry's amazement when writing his book *Guerrilla Days in Ireland* he wondered how the British could dare report such rubbish, given that no survivors had lived to tell the tale.

Certain Irish men were then, as now, susceptible to these lies and, disassociating his party from the Kilmichael 'tragedy', Captain Redmond told the Westminster parliament:

"Murder has never appealed to any patriotic Irish man as a means of realising national ambitions and murder is a sure path leading to the inevitable result of destroying the ambitions and the aspirations of the majority of the Irish people."

The *Irish Independent*, besides 'deploring' the 'appalling' attack, published a telegram of sympathy from Lord French to the "loss of so many gallant comrades at the hands of despicable murderers of the lowest type".

NOTHING CHANGES

HYSTERIA has gripped the media in recent weeks following the announcement that the committee which organises the annual commemoration for the three IRA Volunteers who died in the course of a spectacular ambush at Kilmichael in 1920 has selected Sinn Féin president and Westminster MP Gerry Adams as this year's guest speaker.

This media reaction, and the denunciation of Adams as a representative of 'violence', bears a striking resemblance to the media and establishment reaction which followed Kilmichael 63 years ago. AP/RN reporter Jack Madden has been looking back at that reaction and finds that little has changed.

The *Globe* of London commented:

"A more horrible thing was never done even by the most savage among the Germans, and if Lloyd George is to really get 'murder by the throat', it is high time that he set about it in earnest..."

"The terrorist gangs in Ireland have found it easy to make a countryside shiver and shake to produce a cowardly acquiescence in the perpetration of crime and to deter the giving of evidence against their perpetrators."

"To adopt the theory that there is a war in Ireland, and yet to omit all the risks of the soldiers in war, would appear to be a dangerous folly, and the public is entitled at least to ask why these things happen..."

PASTORAL LETTER

On the same day as the Kilmichael ambush, a pastoral letter was issued by Cardinal Logue about another attack one week earlier when IRA Volunteers executed 14 British spies and two RIC men in Dublin. This pastoral, which was widely publicised in the press in the week following Kilmichael read:

"I believe that every man and woman in Ireland who retains a spark of Christian feeling, or even the instincts of humanity, deplores, detests and condemns the deliberate, cold-blooded murders on Sunday morning. No object could excuse them..."

"Patriotism is a noble virtue when it pursues its object by means that are sincere, honourable, just and in strict accordance

country, robbing her of just sympathy, raising obstacles to her progress, and impressing a deep strain on her fair fame."

These sentiments, familiar to republicans today in the repeated condemnations of the forces of 'moderation' following IRA attacks on military personnel, were echoed by equally recognisable comments in the opinion columns of newspapers such as the *Cork Examiner*, following Kilmichael:

"We would commend the advice and warning of Cardinal Logue in the fervent hope that... terrorism, murder and crimes of lesser degree cease forthwith..."

And in an overly optimistic forecast of the inevitable demise of republicanism, the same leader column commented:

"The present outcome of events was not expected or understood when Irish voters at the last election discarded their constitutional representatives and replaced them by men holding other views. It is conceivable that if another general election were now to take place in Ireland, or if a plebiscite of the electors of the country were now taken, Irish opinion may express itself somewhat differently..."

COLLABORATION

But perhaps the most damning evidence of collaboration between Irish establishment figures and imperialism, echoed recently by the refusal of Free State Defence Minister, Patrick Cooney, to supply weapons traditionally loaned to the firing party at the yearly Kilmichael commemoration because of the presence of Sinn Féin president Gerry Adams as guest speaker, is to be found in the same *Cork Examiner* in its leader of December 3rd 1920:

"Gloom still pervades in Ireland, the reign of terror still exists and even the air is sombre to harmonise with the prevailing tragedy. The solemn obsequies of the victims (British) of Kilmichael's ambush impressed the citizens of Cork deeply, as the melancholy procession made its progress yesterday through the streets of the city, and heads were bared in the presence of death..."

"We assert the pressing need of the hour of peace, which will end the murders, crime, burnings, the threatened famine and other horrors that have transformed the once 'bright spot in the Empire' to a country of blood and flame..."

Ignored was the reign of terror begun by the Auxiliaries in the aftermath of Kilmichael with numerous farmhouses and other buildings being burned and the inhabitants of the area being forced to flee to avoid slaughter. Ignored too was the British 'request' for shop closures in Cork the day of that funeral and the large forces of military, Black and Tans and Auxiliaries who lined the route to ensure Cork's citizens showed dutiful respect.

But the gratitude of the British to Cork's citizens was forcefully illustrated when, following the death of another Auxiliary some days later, they burnt the city to the ground.



● TOM BARRY

with God's law, otherwise it degenerates into a blind, brutal, reckless passion, inspired not by love of country but by Satan.

"The perpetrators of such crimes are not real patriots, but the enemies of their

KILMICHAEL COMMEMORATION
12.30pm Sunday 27th November
Speaker: Gerry Adams MP
KILMICHAEL
County Cork
(six miles south-west of Macroom)

Sinn Fein AGMs

ON SUNDAY, November 20th, Lagan Valley comhairle ceantair met for its annual general meeting.

Joe Austin, chairperson of Sinn Fein's Belfast executive, congratulated those present on the tremendous work they had all been involved in since the June Westminster election.

In six months Sinn Fein membership in the area has doubled. Three cumainn now exist and two advice centres have been opened.

The following officer board was elected:- chair: Richard McAuley; vice-chair: Lucy Murray; treasurer: Joan Burke; secretary: Jim Armstrong; PRO: Joe Leathan.

MONAGHAN

The AGM of the O'Hanlon/McMahon cumainn Sinn Fein, Monaghan town, took place on Saturday night, November 19th. Members of the cumainn distribution sub-committee also attended and were accorded special mention for the hard work they carried out since their formation earlier in the year.

The healthy financial position reported by the outgoing treasurer, Kieran Stars, was due principally to the profits made by the sub-committee from the sales of *AP/RN* and republican publications.

The following officer board was elected:- chair: Caoimhghin O Caolain; vice-chair: Pat O'Neill; secretary: Pauline Rafferty; joint-treasurers: Padraig Uí Mhurchu and Desalín O Clannáin; PRO: Padraig Mac Airt.

Cumainn re-formed

AT A RECENT meeting of all Sinn Fein cumainn in the Milford electoral area of County Donegal it was decided to form the existing cumainn into one large cumainn to enable greater cohesiveness of the growing Sinn Fein organisation in the area.

The cumainn is to be named after the H-Block hunger-strike martyr Kieran Doherty TD, and the following officers were elected:-

Chair: Paddy Doherty (Carrigart); vice-chair: Paddy McMenamin (Kilmacreagh); secretary: Mary Doherty (Carrigart); PRO: Martin Monaghan (Carrigart); joint-treasurers: Rose McGlynn (Milford) and Pat Murphy (Kerrykeel).

DUNDALK

The Sinn Fein cumainn in the Seaview ward of Dundalk has also recently been re-organised and has been renamed after the late Bobby Sands MP.

The following officers were elected:- chair: Paddy Kerr; vice-chair: John McLaughlin; secretary: Paddy Savage; treasurer: Sean Redmond; PRO: Gerard Mulholland.

New ard comhairle meets

THE FIRST MEETING of the new Sinn Fein ard comhairle, last Saturday, reviewed the ard feis and discussed how to improve the Sinn Fein organisation throughout the coming year.

A resolution was passed thanking those who worked on creche facilities, and praising the personnel who handled the check-in of delegates, over 490 plus a considerable number of visitors which was a large increase in recent attendances.

There is to be a major review of the organisation and its electoral strategy, bearing in mind next May's EEC elections and the twenty-six county local government elections. An EEC election directorate was appointed to frame Sinn Fein's opposition policy to the EEC, to set up conventions and choose candidates and to initiate the campaign.

Invited to sit on this committee are: Richard Behal, Mick Timothy, Danny Morrison, Aine Nic Mhurchada, Paddy Doherty, Francie Molloy, John Joe McGil, Paddy Bolger, Tom Hartley and one of the general secretaries. They are to give a progress report at the next ard comhairle meeting and to consider the appointment of a European spokesperson or spokespersons.

All department heads are to be given written briefs and are to be held accountable on a regular basis, and all Sinn Fein policy documents are to be updated and circulated to the membership. A conference — similar to the review in Athlone in 1979 — is to be held in six months' time to discuss ard comhairle proposals and documents.

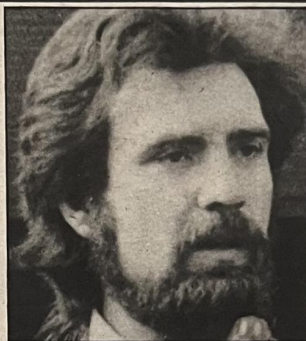
COMMUNICATIONS

The twenty-six county local government election directorate is to be reconstituted and will consist of Paddy Bolger, Paddy Doherty, Denise Cregan, Aine Nic Mhurchada, Joe Cahill, Brendan Swords, some former ard comhairle members, and a number of other Sinn Fein personnel.

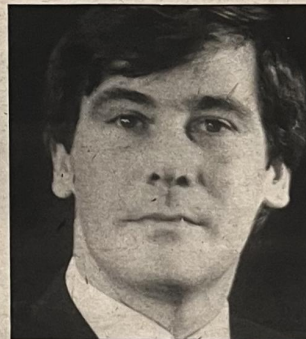
Paddy Bolger was appointed assistant director of publicity to Danny Morrison.

The ard comhairle, on a recommendation from the new Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, agreed not to fill the co-options (five, including national organiser and director of finance) until the regional ard comhairle representatives have been elected and until it is seen how many of them are women — the ard feis decided that at least eight women must be represented on the ard comhairle.

Among other decisions reached were that cumainn or comhairle ceantair who wish to make specific major proposals or submissions should be encouraged to come and address the ard comhairle. More efficient communications



● PADDY BOLGER



● SEAMUS MCGARRIGLE

are also to be established with the editorial staffs of *An Phoblacht/Republican News*, *Saoirse* and *IRIS*, with the editor of *AP/RN* being invited to attend ard comhairle meetings.

REGIONAL DELEGATES

Seven people were elected to the coiste seasta, which runs the organisation between ard comhairle meetings, with the eighth position to be filled after the regional delegates attend the ard comhairle. The seven are: Paddy Bolger, Denise Cregan, Tom Hartley, Paddy Doherty, Seamus McGarrigle, Brendan Swords and Joe Cahill.

The ard comhairle also appointed a number of people to organise the crucial regional meet-

ings and internal elections, which represent a break from the former provincial structures:

North Connacht/North West Leinster (consisting of Sligo/Leitrim; Roscommon; Longford/Westmeath) and West Connacht (consisting of Mayo, both constituencies; and Galway, both constituencies) will be called together by John Joe McGil.

South Ulster/North Leinster (consisting of Cavan/Monaghan; Louth; Meath) will be called together by Caoimhghin O Caolain, Mid-Leinster (consisting of Laois/Offaly; Kildare; Wicklow) under Brendan Swords. North Munster (consisting of Clare; North Tipperary; Limerick, both constituencies) under Padraig Malone and Martin Ferris.

South Munster (Kerry, both constituencies; Cork, both constituencies) under Richard Behal and Martin Ferris. East Munster/South Leinster (South Tipperary; Waterford; Carlow/Kilkenny; Wexford) under Brendan Swords. Dublin (urban and rural constituencies) under Aine Nic Mhurchada.

West Ulster (consisting of Donegal, both constituencies; Foyle; Mid-Ulster; Fermanagh/South Tyrone) under Danny Morrison, Owen Carron, Paddy Doherty and Martin McGuinness. South-East Ulster (Newry and Armagh; Upper Bann; South Down; Strangford) under Jim McAllister. North-East Ulster (Antrim North; Antrim East; Antrim South; Derry East) under John Davey and Tom Hartley.

Greater Belfast (Belfast plus Lagan Valley) under Gerry Adams.

All cumainn members are entitled to attend these annual general meetings, are entitled to vote, should elect a regional officer board (not necessarily filling all the positions), and will elect a regional ard comhairle delegate. The ard comhairle urges the meetings to especially operate a bias in favour of women.

Future regional meetings will be attended by its officer board, its ard comhairle representative and two delegates from each comhairle ceantair. The ard comhairle recommends that the regional executives (comhairle reigiún) do not select their youth officers until head office has received submissions on this important issue and until the full ard comhairle sits.

The first of these regional meetings will be held on Sunday, December 4th, at the Connolly Hall, O'Connell Street, Limerick, where Comhairle Cuige Mumhan will be dissolved and an ard comhairle representative will outline the new regional structure. All Munster delegates are to attend, and the meeting, which is open to all members of Sinn Fein, starts at 2.30pm.

A meeting to discuss the structure for the West Ulster region (Donegal, Foyle, Mid-Ulster, Fermanagh/South Tyrone), will be held in Jackson's Hotel, Ballybofey, County Donegal, on Sunday, December 11th, at 2pm.

Sinn Fein women in London

BY MAEVE ARMSTRONG

BELFAST Sinn Fein members Ann Maguire from the Sinn Fein Housing Department and Chrissie McAuley from the party's Women's Department returned to Ireland on Sunday, November 20th, following a week-long series of meetings in London with the British Labour Party women's section.

The formal invitation was issued by Sarah Roelofs, women's officer of the Committee on Ireland, as part of a continuation of the two-way dialogue in the aftermath of the successful fringe meeting addressed by Gerry Adams, Síle Darragh and Chrissie McAuley in September during the Labour Party conference in Brighton.

After lengthy discussions with the two Sinn Fein women, Labour women's sections from Brent East and South, Tottenham, Hackney North and South, Islington and Camden, expressed the view that the reality of what was happening in the six counties was seriously distorted and misrepresented by the British media.

Ann Maguire, a mother of five and a Sinn Fein advice worker, graphically outlined her life from

1969 as being typical for nationalist people under British rule. She was burnt out of her home by loyalist mobs and subsequently lost her three-month-old daughter because of the deplorable temporary housing accommodation. Shortly afterwards she suffered a miscarriage after she was hit with a rubber bullet.

Ann outlined the constant raids and searches of nationalist areas and described the sexual harassment of women by Brits and RUC on the streets, through verbal abuse and innuendo; by Special Branch men during interrogations; and degrading strip-searches carried out on remand prisoners in Armagh Jail.

OCCUPATION

Chrissie McAuley also described the effect of British occupation on women in the nationalist areas and traced the historical and present-day role of women

in the national liberation struggle. She outlined the formation of Sinn Fein's Women's Department and the policy document *Women in the New Ireland* passed by the 1980 ard feis.

She described the special significance for women in Sinn Fein of several progressive motions passed at this year's ard feis concerning positive discrimination, the importance of the name change from Women's Affairs to Women's Department, the several motions on child-care and particularly one motion which commits Sinn Fein to having at least eight women on the ard comhairle.

On Tuesday night, November 15th, Chrissie and Ann addressed a well-attended public meeting in Lambeth Town Hall and on Wednesday afternoon they had discussions in a committee room in Westminster with Jo Richardson MP, Labour's women's affairs spokesperson. They highlighted the strip-searching of Armagh prisoners, sexual harassment of women by British soldiers and RUC men, and repressive legislation such as the Payment of Debt Act and Emergency Provisions Act and the daily victimisation and discrimination against the nationalist community from state bodies such as the Housing



● ANN MAGUIRE

Executive and DHSS.

MEETING

Interviews were given to the *Labour Herald*, *Socialist Action*, *Tribune*, *Outwrite* and *Spare Rib* during the week. At the week-end they spoke at a fringe meeting on Sunday at the London Labour Party women's conference at County Hall.

There was great interest and



● CHRISIE MCAULEY

enthusiasm amongst the Labour women who attended all the meetings, many of whom admitted they had been quite ignorant as to what was happening and several women trade union activists promised to agitate within their unions and the Labour Party for a complete change in Labour's policy.

At the London Labour Party women's conference, attended by

around 200 delegates, an important resolution was passed condemning the sexual harassment of women being strip-searched in Armagh and recommending that a letter of protest be sent from the Labour spokesperson on the North to the NIO. The conference also called for an official London Labour Party women's delegation to visit Armagh within three months on a fact-finding mission.

RUC guidance

BURKE'S AT THE BACK

By Kevin Burke

THE RUC have some unusually sound advice which members carry with them on a shiny white card in case of problems.

Headed *Disciplinary Offences*, the card reads:

"The Police Federation for Northern Ireland, in the light of experience, issues the following advice for your guidance if an investigation is being conducted against you for a disciplinary matter arising from a complaint made by a member of the public or from a matter of internal discipline.

"As a general rule, it is better to refrain from making any statement until you have sought advice from:

"1. Your local Federation representative;

"2. Any member of the force.

"If it is a serious disciplinary matter consult a legal adviser, having first discussed the matter with your Federation representative.

"If a criminal allegation is made against you, seek legal advice immediately."

A far cry from the RUC's public appeals for everyone to turn informer on their neighbours and give full information to the authorities.

So next time you are stopped by the RUC just refer to the little white card most of them carry in their pockets and quote:

"As a general rule I consider it is better to refrain from making any statement until I have sought legal advice."

Don't forget to duck.

☆☆☆

One of those who turned up at the annual dinner dance at the South Derry Historical Society on Friday, November 11th, was senior RUC man Frank Flynn who, it being Remembrance Day, entered wearing a poppy in his lapel.

On seeing that no one else was wearing one, however, Flynn was spotted surreptitiously removing the emblem and pocketing it for the rest of the evening.

☆☆☆

So costly was the Christopher Black paid perjurer trial which jailed 21 North Belfast people that a supplementary estimate has had to be moved in the Westminster parliament to pay for it.

The trial, which lasted more than 100 days, cost the Brits £1.3 million.

☆☆☆

Michael White, the Workers' Party candidate in Dublin Central, should not be too disappointed at missing a £16,400 per annum seat in Leinster House. Along with Pat McCartan (a fellow Stick who is also a Leinster House hope-



● The Free State's deputy-premier and Labour Party leader, Dick Spring, seemed to be heading for another Coalition crisis when he breached the 'shun Sinn Féin policy' in Dublin's Moore Street last Saturday. Whether he actually recognised Danny Morrison or not when the two canvassing teams collided may be debatable, but one of Spring's entourage certainly recognised one of Morrison's companions.

"Oh God! It's Gerry Adams!" he shrieked in total panic.

ful in another Dublin constituency), White operates a solicitor's practice in Church Street.

Last year the two 'workers' received £90,000 in legal aid fees alone to share between them.

☆☆☆

A British soldier based at Lisanelly Barracks in Omagh was found guilty at Omagh Crown Court last week of indecently assaulting an eight-year-old girl.

Peter Philbin, aged 23, had been baby-sitting for friends when he assaulted the child.

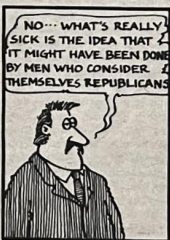
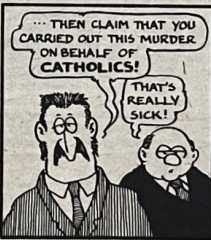
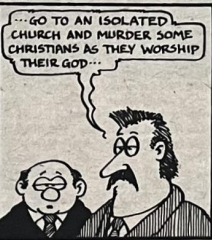
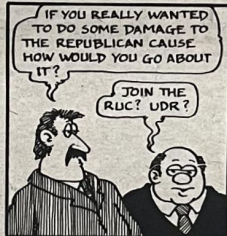
Judge Robert Babington told him that he had "abused the hospitality offered to him by

the family" and let him off with a three-month prison sentence.

☆☆☆

REME corporal Richard Blake appeared at the Old Bailey on Monday last week and admitted indecently assaulting and robbing three women at knife-point after breaking into their homes in various parts of England last year.

He has been remanded for psychiatric tests until December 5th when, no doubt, his senior officers will tell the court of his splendid service in the North.



REMEMBERING THE PAST

REPUBLICAN PUBLICITY

BY PETER O'ROURKE

DURING the Tan War, the British, in an attempt to prevent the true facts about Ireland from being heard abroad, imposed strict press censorship and prohibited all republican publicity.

In an effort to penetrate the barrier of misrepresentation created by the English press, Dail Eireann formed a department of publicity with Desmond FitzGerald in charge. In November 1919 the Dail began publishing the *Irish Bulletin*, a stencilled news-sheet which appeared several times a week, giving the facts about British atrocities in Ireland, countering false propaganda and carrying reports of IRA operations against the enemy.

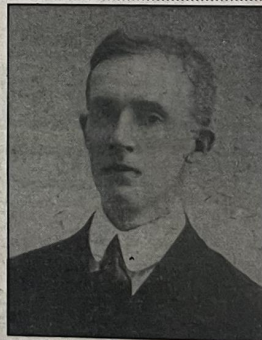
The publicity department, operating from attics and basements under the very noses of the Black and Tans, produced the *Bulletin* in many languages and was widely circulated throughout England, Europe and America.

The up-to-date information on British atrocities in Ireland which the *Irish Bulletin* provided to opposition spokespersons in the Westminster parliament infuriated the British government. Speaking in the House of Commons on November 24th 1920, Sir Hamar Greenwood, the Chief Secretary for Ireland, angrily denounced the opposition MPs for relying on the *Irish Bulletin* as an accurate source for information on conditions in Ireland.

In March the following year, FitzGerald, the Dail's director of publicity, was arrested and Erskine Childers was appointed to the office. Childers took over the task of editing the *Irish Bulletin* and continued with vigour the countering of British propaganda.

The publication was doing such damage to Britain's presentation of the war that no effort was spared by Dublin Castle to suppress the *Bulletin*.

The Dail's publicity department was raided and machinery used for printing the *Bulletin* was seized. Dublin Castle began issuing forged copies of the news-sheet, but within a week Childers in the *Bulletin* neatly turned the tables by exposing the fraud and telling the readers how to distinguish between the real and false *Bulletin*.



● ERSKINE CHILDERS

Despite all the precautions the British authorities could contrive, the truth about Ireland was being exposed. Despite searches, raids and occasional seizures, the *Irish Bulletin* continued to appear for two years - until December 1921.

WHAT'S ON

DUBLIN SINN FEIN BY-ELECTION FUND RAISERS
Friday/Saturday/Sunday
25th/26th/27th November
Featuring various artists
The No. 5 Club
5 Blessington Street
DUBLIN
Táille £1

SOCIAL NIGHT
(In aid of PDF Minibus Fund)
Friday 25th November
Kavanagh's Hide-out
INNISKEEN
County Monaghan

SOCIAL NIGHT
(In aid of PDF Minibus Fund)
Friday 25th November
Chieftain Lounge
Park Street
MONAGHAN

PRISONERS DEPENDANTS FUND IRISH NIGHT
Featuring Erin's Pride
Friday 25th November
Crossroads Inn
MILLTOWN
County Cavan
Prominent speakers
Supper & bar extension
Táille £3

KERRY SINN FEIN ANNUAL DINNER DANCE
Featuring Michael O'Callaghan
Friday 25th November
Ballingarry House
TRALEE
County Kerry
Táille £8
Speakers: Ruairi O Braidhaigh & Daithi O Connall

PRISONERS DEPENDANTS FUND IRISH NIGHT
Featuring Patsy Farrell & the Volunteers
8.30pm Saturday 26th November
Seamus Smith's
SLANE
County Meath
Táille £1

CHRISTY MOORE CONCERT
4pm Sunday 27th November
Conway Street Mill
Falls Road
BELFAST
Admission free
Adults only admitted if accompanied by a youth
Organised by Sinn Féin Youth

SUPPER & DANCE
(In aid of Sinn Féin election fund)
Featuring Patsy Farrell & the Volunteers
Sunday 27th November
Mostrim Arms Hotel
EDGEMORTHSTOWN
County Longford

PRISONERS DEPENDANTS FUND IRISH NIGHT
Featuring Johnny Ray
Thursday 1st December
Philip McGovern's Bar
BLACKLION
County Cavan

SMASH THE BRITISH SYSTEM OF PAID PERJURERS! PUBLIC MEETING
8pm Thursday 1st December
ATGWU Hall
Marlborough Street
DUBLIN
Organised by the Spirit of Freedom Committee

CHARLIE KERINS COMMEMORATION
8.30pm Friday 2nd December
Assemble at Dendol Street
March to Strand Road monument
TRALEE
County Kerry

COMHAIRLE CUIGE MUMHAN DISSOLUTION MEETING
2.30pm Sunday 4th December
Connolly Hall
O'Connell Street
LIMERICK
Ard comhairle representative will attend to outline new regional structure
All Munster delegates to attend
Open to all members of Sinn Féin

LIAM MELLOWS COMMEMORATION
after 11.30am Mass
Thursday 8th December
ATHENRY
County Galway
Speaker: Gerry Adams MP

LIAM MELLOWS COMMEMORATION
2.30pm Sunday 11th December
Golden Anchor Car Park
CASTLETOWN
County Wexford
Speaker: Seamus Twomey

REVIEW PAGE

TV

Right to life

BY SIOBHAN O'MALLEY

FOR 40 YEARS Nicaragua was literally owned by the Somoza family. Torture, murder, and death from disease and starvation dominated the lives of the people. After the overthrow of Somoza, the Sandinista revolution has set up 2,500 schools and illiteracy has been cut to 10%. Polio, a common child-killer, has been wiped out and infant mortality is down by one-third.

John Pilger's report, on UTV last Tuesday, *Nicaragua: A Nation's Right to Life*, compared the lives of Nicaraguans before and after the revolution, and showed that the American propaganda claiming severe rationing and a 'communist dictatorship' to be untrue. Fresh food was plentiful, and for the first time people did not live in constant fear of their lives.

Tipi Tapay Prison used to be a torture centre for Somoza's National Guard — the National Guard are now the prisoners there. There is no torture and the prisoners are quickly moved to prison farms, where there are no guards or fences. Somoza's once-dreaded personal body-guard is now on a prison farm and was filmed in his rocking chair on the veranda of a farmhouse.

Thomas Borgay, Minister of the Interior for the revolutionary government, almost died at the hands of Somoza's torturers. He is not bitter, he says, he has forgotten about it.

"You must put such things behind you," he said in an interview, "or they would destroy you."

Pilger's report showed a people interested only in rebuilding their country and their lives. A people who, while determined not to go back to living under a dictatorship, are not vengeful or bitter. A people who are concerned about their children's health and education.

"This is the threat to the United States," Pilger says. But 4,000 American troops

word 'let', and claimed that the American government merely wanted to 'help' these countries. That 'help' in the past was 56 million dollars in aid to the Somoza dictatorship, of which only 15 million showed up in government accounts.

Lifting the Veil: The Politics of Television, on RTE 1 last

crats that now control the revolution, he goes with his colleagues to the same blade that executed his king only a year before.

ARGUMENTS

It must be said that this French picture is extremely complimentary to old Danton, but the politics of the director, Andrzej Wajda, have a big part to play in this, seeing as he was given the boot from Poland after his unflattering portrayal of the regime there.

Here Robespierre is General Jaruzelski and Danton is Lech Walesa. Danton is gregarious, good with women, a human being. Robespierre is cold, mechanical, bad with women and, by implication, bad with revolution.

Yet despite the unflattering portrayal of him it is Robespierre's arguments that are the most convincing. In a situation of chaos, order was needed to save the revolution, otherwise only anarchy would have ruled the streets and given a clear road to restoration of the monarchy.

I have no doubt that, despite his good intentions, Danton would have sold the revolution down the river, seeing everything as he did in the short-term and perhaps tainted by his odd job as a civil servant to the French monarchy.

Either way, no class could impose its rule on France and there, as in Russia, a dictator filled the vacuum.

But having my intellect stimulated by this intelligent film was only a prelude to having it totally mutilated by Private Popsicle, an Israeli cash-in on the Porky's films.

Three boys are drafted as privates into the army and the film concerns itself with how they meet girls. For anyone interested in privates, there are plenty of privates on parade here.

The dialogue is most absorbing. Anytime a boy meets a girl in Israel he experiences immediate excitement:

"Look Isaac there's a girl. Eeyaygh!"

"My, over there, Daniel. There's a, it's a... girl! Mwaaahgh!"

"On the blood of Jacob Chevy, I am spotting a... girl. Phweeyayayaygh!"

Popsicle is so bad it is a humiliation.

The problem is that, in Dublin at any rate, *Popsicle* is showing in a thousand-seater and *Danton* is showing in a small art-house cinema. I have no doubt that the Irish distributors looked baffled when they were offered the French picture:

"Danton? What's that? A cheese?"

Personally, I blame capitalism for all this. The two films are released for their quality and not their commerciality the better. Meanwhile, watch out for Private Popsicle, if you value your health. Showing at a cinema near you.



Victorious Sandinista revolutionaries are greeted by jubilant crowds in Managua's Central Plaza on July 20th 1979

mass on the Honduras/Nicaragua border, and Nestor Sanchez of the US Secretary of State's office says that the US should not be "letting these countries have communist rule".

When Pilger pointed out that America had no right to dictate the terms in another country, Sanchez quickly retracted the

word 'let', and claimed that the American government merely wanted to 'help' these countries. That 'help' in the past was 56 million dollars in aid to the Somoza dictatorship, of which only 15 million showed up in government accounts.

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Wednesday, November 16th, was a documentary about RTE by RTE.

It was unfortunately rather long and, at times, boring, saying nothing new about Section 31 and the self-censorship of journalists in RTE, though this was the first time that that self-censorship has been admitted to

by RTE themselves.

Kevin Healy, duty-editor of the news section, said that self-censorship was pervasive and that it was accepted by the journalists. He thought Section 31 was 'no problem' in news, but seriously affected current affairs programmes — a blinkered version of that very same censorship.

PIMP

Dolores Lynch, her mother and her aunt, were burned to death when their home was set on fire by a man whom Dolores Lynch had exposed as a pimp. Last week John Cullen was convicted of the murders and sentenced to life.

Part of *The Women's Programme* on RTE 1 on Monday was a tribute to the courage and endurance of Dolores Lynch, a former prostitute who encouraged other women terrorised by pimps to fight back against them.

She paid for her courage with her life.

Two of her sisters who were interviewed told how her life as a prostitute had, for a time, alienated her from her family, and of their happiness when she returned home after her struggle to get off the streets.

Everyone who knew her spoke of her good humour and resilience. Throughout the interviews with those who knew her, the respect for her bravery in the face of threats, abuse, vicious assaults and, finally, murder, were obvious.

A tale of two films

BY EDDIE STACK

CHARLES DICKENS once wrote a book called *A Tale of Two Cities*, a corny romantic yarn set amidst the dirty business that is a tale of two films: one which you won't see and one that you might, one intelligent film about that very same revolution and one extremely stupid film about 'making it' in the Israeli army.

Danton is an absorbing picture because it touches on important issues. It is a political picture that casts a cold eye over the politics of another age but concludes that the issues raised then are even more relevant to our own generation.

To all revolutionaries who have taken power and are lumbered with the responsibility of deciding which way to turn, it asks the vital question: should you behave in a way that betrays the ideals of the revolution in order to save the revolution?

Should you cut off the head of your opponent in a blatant show-trial that makes a mockery of all your democratic ideals if that show-trial means that the revolution lives on? Or does it mean that with a show-trial the revolution has died already?

When the royal family had been executed and the French middle-class were firmly in the saddle of power, the royalty of Europe and other assorted hobnobs decided that enough was enough and that this French cancer had to be destroyed

before it 'infected' the otherwise 'healthy' parts of their own realms. With a common terror of this new French democracy uniting them, no less than seven European armies marched into France to nip the revolution in the bud.

PROBLEMS

This caused immense problems for the fledgling revolutionary regime. Before they could peacefully settle down to legislate the new freedom for their citizens they now had to pour all their efforts into raising armies to fight off the European monarchs, all the time knowing that the dispossessed nobility within France were only waiting for their chance to set upon the proclaimers of the French Republic.

These wars meant immense hardship for the French citizens. If they were not being slaughtered at the front, their family went hungry in the cities. As the war dragged on and the revolutionary forces were suffering defeats, the guillotine claimed its victims. The guillotine imposed order amidst the increas-

FILM

sing chaos and heads fell like slates from the roof. But discontent festered. It's hard to live up to your ideals on an empty belly. As the war dragged on people saw as their enemies the convention that had been elected to guide revolutionary France.

This situation set two outstanding personalities of the age against each other. Georges Danton and Maximilian Robespierre. These two men had united in setting up the republic and demanding the death of the king and now the revolution's aftermath had divided them.

Danton had seen the people in the streets and believed that they were sick of the war, the hunger, the guillotine and the secret police. In this revolutionary ardour went soft and he came to stand for a halt to 'the Terror', the overthrow of the convention and perhaps some deal with the European monarchy. Against him stood Robespierre's 'revolutionary dictatorship', determined to plough on through thick and thin. If the revolutionary infant had to be delivered amidst the blood of the guillotine, so be it.

And so Danton is arrested, his trial is rail-roaded through, against the wishes of the Paris mob and despite magnificent oratory and his telling criticisms of the mediocre bureau-



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Cith is dealán cíortha

LE GABRIEL NÍ LOCHLAIN

FOILSIODH 'Cith is Dealán' Mháire i 1937, agus tá sé d'ónóir ag Máire gur beag an Gaeilgeoir sa lá atá inniú ann nach bhfuil an cuanach seo léite aige.

Cuireann Nollaig Mac Congáil ina lú orainn gur chóir dúinn

'Cith is Dealán' a mheas taobh uigh den chomhfhad inar scríobhadh é. Mar sin, tar éis dó cúntas goirde a thabhairt ar an t-ionchar a bhí ag an dá ghné den chúrsa sin ar an scríbhneoir óg, agus ar an dóigh a thoshaigh sé ar cheard na scríbhneoirachta trí mhéid an Bhéarla sula sponagadh é chun dul i mbun plúir ar son na Gaeilge.

SCÉALTA

Téann ar dtuiscint ar ghears-

LEABHAR

cealt Mháire i méid tar éis an chéad chaidibí eile a léamh. Múinir na Gaeilgeoirí ar Phobal Leitheoirachta. Cuirtear i gcuilínne dúinn gur dhrigh Máire a scríbhneoiracht ar a phobal féin.

Miníonn sinn cad chuide nach mbíonn na scéalta suite taobh amuigh dena Rosa, cad chuide a bhí ann sa chéad físe fuaite tríd na scéalta uile chomh tréan sin, agus an dóigh ar léirí ar phobal Rann na Feirse lae.

I gcaibidí a sé tugtar spíleachadh beag dúinn ar na tréithe a

'CITH IS DEALÁN' MHAIRE

NOLLAIG MAC CONGÁIL

bhíodh scríobhóirí cáiliúla eile ag iarraidh sa ghearscal, in measc siad tá Máirtín Ó Cadhain, Seosamh Mac Grianna agus luaitear na scríbhneoirí

Rúiseacha fosta. Ansin tar éis an tsat tomhaís seo a thabhairt don leitheoir, amharcan sé ar gníthí d'ádhla de ghearscal Mháire; teidil, tús agus deiradh agus téam. Tá scaghadh fíneadh déanta aige ar théama an ghraó hárthite.

BÉALOIDS

Máirle, le carachtar leag-

ann an t-ádhla amach dúinn cuid dena coslaíocht agus deapóid-acht ar léir carachtar sa scéal béaloíds agus carachtar sa ghearscal nua-áimseartha agus chímíid ina dhiaidh sin gur chloígh Máire leis an chéad chineál arís.

Ba íoch an príomhphearsa, ba spéirbhean an bhánlaoh; Cé nach rabh sa chuid is mó de charactair Mháire ach scáil, bhí corruineach agus arbh fhú níl ba mhó trácht orthu sa léargas seo ná an méid a fuair

siad, mar shampla, Nóra Ní Cheallaigh in *An Aisling Bhíre*.

Ach is beag an cáineadh seo i gcomparáid leis na buanna atá ag an léirheas seo. Ar an chéad dul síos tá an leabhar leagtha amach go soléir simplí agus slachtmar. Is furasta é a léan-

úit.

Tá téagar san ábhar féin ch nach bhfuil ach corradh le cead leathnach sa leabhar. Bheadh an t-ádhla seo ádhlaeach do chineál ar bith a bhfuil suim aige i saothar Mháire, ach go háirithe do lucht léinn, idir dhátaí scoile agus mhéid-leinn. Bua eile atá ag an leabhar seo is ea an iomrad tairgí agus a dhéantar don téacs féin.

Molaim an léirheas seo le Nollaig Mac Congáil go hard.

● Léargas ar 'Cith is Dealán' Mháire, le Nollaig Mac Congáil, Foilsíodh Naisiúnta Tta. Luch €2.50.

LOYALIST MURDER BID

BY JANE PLUNKETT

A 53-YEAR-OLD Lurgan man was shot and seriously injured in the early hours of Monday, November 21st, in a sectarian attack subsequently claimed by the 'Protestant Action Force'.

The man, a taxi-driver who has nine children, was attacked outside his home on the Lurgantarry Estate at about 2.45am, as he returned from driving an acquaintance back to Portadown. As the man parked his car, another vehicle, with two men inside, drew up alongside and one of the occupants asked him directions to a nearby social club frequented by local nationalists.

The car then reversed towards the main road, stopped, and the passenger — watched from a bedroom window by the victim's horrified wife — walked back to him and shot him twice in the face and neck, as he sat in his car. The injured man was rushed to Craig-

avon Area Hospital, where, after undergoing emergency surgery, his condition was later described as 'comfortable'.

Earlier that night there had been a heavy Brit/RUC presence on the estate. And until an hour before the shooting, and possibly later, British army and RUC roadblocks were in operation on main roads into Lurgantarry. In this context, the confidence and impunity with which the loyalist gang entered and left the estate has given rise to local suspicions of collusion or involvement by the crown forces in the attack.

The Protestant Action Force, which, in another sectarian attack less than a fortnight earlier, had

murdered 24-year-old Armagh man Adrian Carroll, later on Monday claimed responsibility for the Lurgan shooting, being able, for once, to claim a pretext for its murderous activities in the previous night's sectarian killing of three Pentecostalist worshippers near Darkley.

IMPLICATIONS

The 'sinister implications' of Sunday night's large Brit/RUC presence in the Lurgantarry area were referred to by Sinn Féin's constituency representative for Upper Bann, Brendan Curran, who, in a statement strongly denouncing sectarian violence, commented:

"Sunday night's shooting has confirmed the lack of faith expressed by the nationalist people of North Armagh in the crown forces, who are always on hand to harass the people but are conspicuously



● Annette Harbinson, one of those first on the scene of the Lurgan shooting, points to the bloodstained road

absent when loyalist murder-gangs are at their work.

"The lack of concern of loyalist politicians at this latest sectarian attack has clearly demonstrated, yet again, the hypocrisy and one-sidedness of loyalist denunciations of sectarianism."

Markets routine

EVERY WEEK, Sinn Féin advice centres in the North receive scores, sometimes hundreds, of reports from nationalists of routine acts of harassment from the crown forces, incidents — including house-raids, physical abuse and hours or days of arbitrary detention — which receive no media attention.

In one such everyday incident, which occurred just after 6am on Monday, November 21st, the RUC kicked in the door of a family in the Markets area of Belfast when they were unable to gain immediate admittance to conduct a raid.

The raid, for which the RUC produced no warrant, was conducted on the Eliza Street home of 19-year-old identical twin brothers Kieran and Seamus Flynn. After searching the house, and following some dispute among the RUC men concerning which twin to detain, Seamus was assaulted, arrested under Section 11 and detained in Castlereagh Interrogation Centre.

Before they left, the RUC threatened to shoot the brothers' dog, while refusing to leave a damage-claim form for the door, which had been holed by their blows and cannot now be secured at night.

Later that morning, Kieran Flynn registered a complaint about the damage to the RUC at Musgrave Street Barracks, who in turn apparently contacted the Housing Executive. The Executive, responding to the RUC's summons with a rapidly remarkable in contrast to their general long-term neglect of tenants' essential repairs, later that morning dispatched an official to the Flynn's home who promised that the Executive would replace the door within 36 hours. On Wednesday afternoon, however, the work had still not been done.

MONEY

Seamus Flynn was released at 10.30pm on Tuesday night from Castle-reagh where he had been offered sums



● KIERAN FLYNN

of money ranging from £25 to £25,000 for supplying information about Sinn Féin meetings in the Markets area and in particular about Sinn Féin's constituency representative, Sean McKnight.

The RUC men, who several times commented on how hard it is to live on the dole, attempted unsuccessfully, shortly before Flynn's release, to arrange to meet him later 'for a drink', in either Moira or Hillsborough.

On his release Seamus Flynn sensibly approached Sinn Féin to report the RUC's propositioning.

RUC assault Crossmaglen youths

A 16-YEAR-OLD Crossmaglen youth who has been constantly arrested since Easter this year (seven times in all), was viciously beaten by the RUC on Sunday night, November 20th, for refusing to give his date of birth.

The incident happened shortly after 10pm when Patrick McDonnell and his two friends were being served in Crossmaglen's chip shop when a Brit patrol stared at them through the window and stuck their tongues out.

When the youths went outside the Brits demanded their names, addresses and dates of birth. They correctly refused to give the latter.

Two RUC men arrived to join the patrol, grabbed one of the youths and trailed him across to a Saracen, where he was kicked and punched. Similarly, Patrick and his other friends were dragged across the road and thrown in beside the other youth.

KICKED

When they reached Crossmaglen Barracks, a short distance away, Patrick and his two friends were taken into the yard, thrown up against a wall and kicked around the legs and body. One of the youths was grabbed by the hair and had his head banged off the wall, which knocked him unconscious for several minutes.

When Patrick and his friend tried to lift him up they were pushed away. The youth was then placed on a chair, which he fell off, and he was dragged by the hood of his coat across the yard. He began choking as his windpipe was restricted and he was then kicked along a corridor.



● Patrick McDonnell (left), the 16-year-old beaten by the RUC

The youth was later taken to Daisy Hill Hospital in Newry, having severe bruises around his neck, and was released several hours later.

Meanwhile, Patrick McDonnell and his other friend were also kicked along a corridor and had their hands trampled

on by RUC men. In the interrogation room they were hit around the face with a newspaper for refusing to give their dates of birth and released around 1am the following morning, being warned that they would be charged with obstruction.

RUC bully schoolkids

THREE LURGAN schoolchildren suffered a frightening experience at the hands of the sectarian RUC on Thursday night last, November 17th, when they were verbally abused, threatened and assaulted while under detention in the back of an RUC Land Rover.

Shortly after 9pm, Don Magee, a slight 13-year-old, and two friends were out playing on the Levin Road, near their homes on the nationalist Kilwille Estate. Suddenly, an RUC Land Rover stopped on the dark road in front of them and several RUC men leapt out and seized the boys, ripping 12-year-old Darren Maguire's jacket, and threw them into the back of the vehicle.

For around 45 minutes, the three boys, surrounded by about eight armed RUC men, were subjected to repeated verbal abuse as the RUC aggressively demanded details of their families. At one point, the RUC threatened to drop the children in the loyalist Mourneview area of the town and to tell passers-by there that the children were nationalists.

One uniformed loyalist stuck his gun painfully in Don Magee's leg and, when

the child complained, threatened: "You're lucky I'm not blowing the leg off you."

Another RUC man cynically added: "I'll have to pull these bullets out of the gun before I shoot one of them."

Darren Maguire was kicked in the shin by an RUC man as the boys were at last released from the Land Rover. The RUC men threatening to return to repeat their actions on some future date. Young Don Magee was manhandled to his Kelly Gardens home by the RUC who, in response to questions from the boy's anxious father, Donnell Magee, half-heartedly attempted to cover up their cowardly bullying by claiming that they had earlier overheard the boys plotting to throw bottles at them.



● Donnell Magee with his 13-year-old son who was threatened by an RUC man